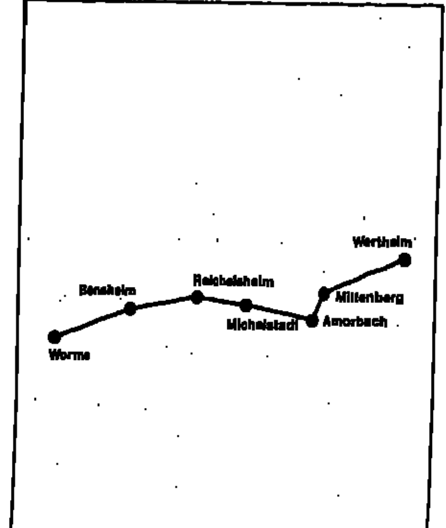
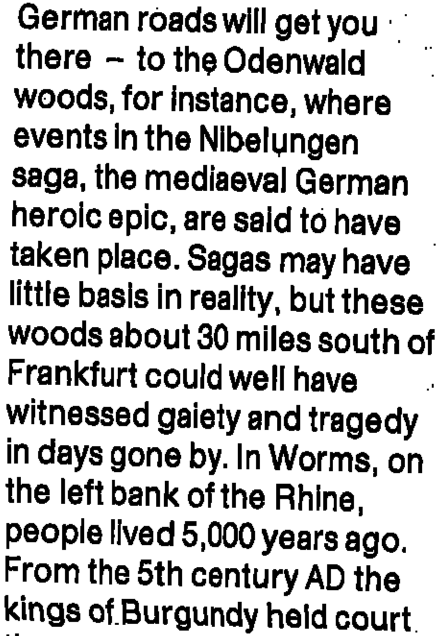


Routes to tour in Germany

The Nibelungen Route





German roads will get you there – to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the mediaeval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gaiety and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there, going hunting in the Odenwald.

With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered *Rathaus*. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

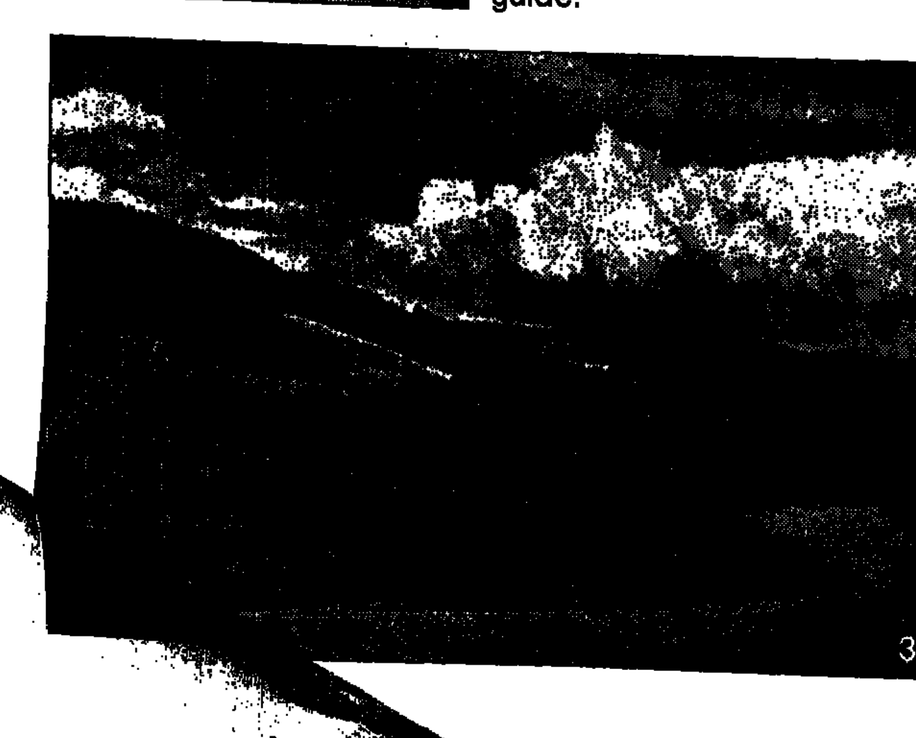
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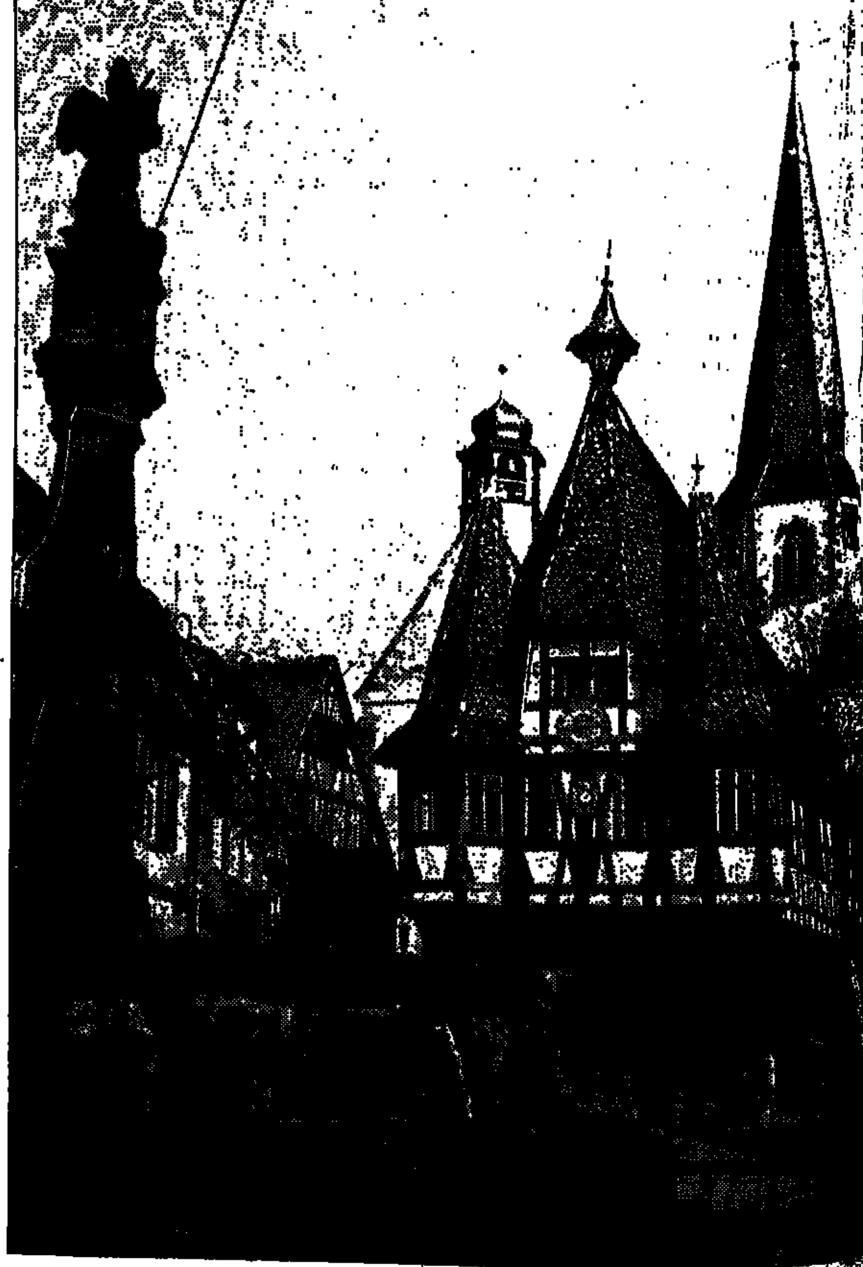
1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
2 Miltenberg
3 Odenwald
4 Michelstadt
5 Wertheim

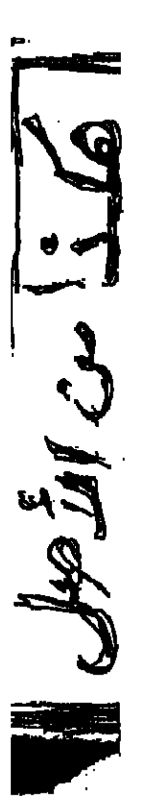




Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.







The German Tribune

Hamburg, 4 June 1989
Twenty-eighth year - No. 1372 - By air

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Instead of marking a jubilee, Nato conference closes a chapter

DIE ZEIT

Nato's 40th anniversary Brussels summit was originally intended to be the jubilee event of a success story and the starting-point for the North Atlantic pact's next 40 years.

It ended up marking the end of an era. For 40 years the after-effects of the Second World War made their mark on the history of the developed world. The post-war era is now drawing to a close.

To appreciate the change you must disregard the current furore in connection with short-range nuclear missiles. In a world where over 50,000 nuclear weapons are stockpiled, a few hundred more are unlikely to be of decisive importance.

And if there is anything Nato bureaucrats are good at, then it is at drafting compromise formulas, as the Brussels summit can be sure to have agreed.

A decision on the introduction of new missiles is postponed (for four years?), the holding of talks with the East on missiles of this kind is held over (for a year?) and the arrangement is then called an overall concept.

Yet the very vehemence of this mini-crisis shows how much the world has changed. As it is so inconvenient to abandon tried and trusted routines the leading Western allies have sought solace in disputes on topics with which they are conversant and are now at loggerheads over nuclear missiles that are not, in themselves, of any great importance.

It is an odd debate inasmuch as the parties to it behave as though everything depended on an individual military measure. Yet military factors are everywhere growing less important.

The post-war era is drawing to a close. For 40 years military considerations have prevailed in East-West relations. Military potential has been the crux of political assessments.

The Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachov, has now embarked on a number of bold moves aimed at reducing long-standing Soviet military advantages in Europe.

In the Third World armistices and peace settlements are increasing in number, either because they are felt to be indispensable or out of sheer exhaustion.

"The hope of a peaceful settlement of conflicts," according to the latest annual report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, "is more firmly founded than at any time since the end of the Second World War."

That naturally doesn't mean all danger is past. The disarmament Mr Gorbachov has heralded in Eastern Europe has yet to be implemented, the Vienna talks on mutual arms reductions to equal ceilings have only just begun, and even if they were to lead to the results everyone is keen to see, the Soviet Union would still be the military superpower in Europe.

Even so, scenarios of military attacks by the East bloc have forfeited much of their credibility in the wake of changes in Moscow. Thinking in terms of military categories no longer predominates in politics.

Entirely new, non-military threats to our security are now taking shape on the horizon, first and foremost the possibility of political instability on the periphery of Western Europe.

Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union's security glacis and, of late, the venue of experiments at political and economic reform, could again set the scene for change and unrest. In the Middle East insurrection and death have become an everyday routine as Europe's densely populated neighbours on the southern perimeter of the Mediterranean struggle for survival against religious fundamentalism and the population explosion. Europe's security problem in the 1990s will consist less of the deterrent failing to deter than of political stability further afield collapsing. The post-war era is drawing to a close. Small wonder the Atlantic alliance is finding it hard to come to terms with the changes.

The West knows how to deal with military dangers, and that was enough as long as such dangers were the crux of our security problem; it no longer is.

That is why the United States, led by its new President, has no longer assumed the leadership it would have considered a matter of course in days gone by. As long as Soviet military superiority was felt to be the most serious threat Western Europe faced, America as the West's foremost military power automatically led the West. True, it is still hard to envisage Western Europe being able to live in security without alliance ties with the United States. Yet American military dominance is on the decline as the military challenge declines in importance. At the same time America's alliance partners — even that one-time model of propriety Bonn — are growing more self-assured and self-reliant.

In the latest missile dispute the Federal Republic of Germany has, for the first time in the 40 years since it was founded, not stopped short at standing up to its most important ally — and at doing so on its own.

It has even done so under a Federal Chancellor for whom the North Atlantic pact forms part of the West German raison d'état.

True, fears of a further decline in the Bonn coalition's popularity has contributed toward the German Federal government's new-found sense of self-reliance. Yet in the past, when the military threat was self-evident, no Bonn government would have dared to sacrifice Nato solidarity to electoral considerations.

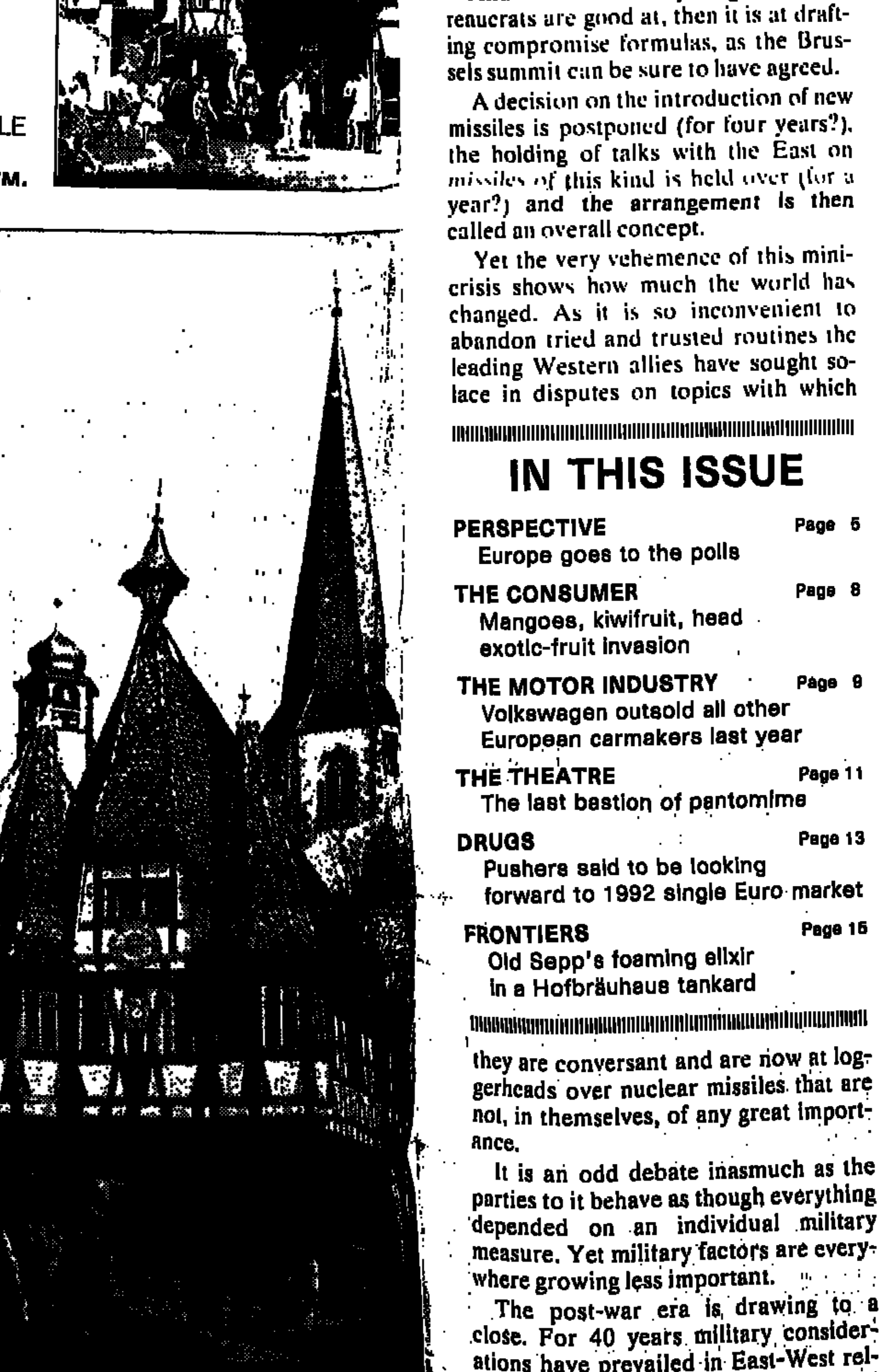
In 1982 Hans-Dietrich Genscher was still prepared to risk the very future of his party, the Free Democrats, rather than to jeopardise missile modernisation.

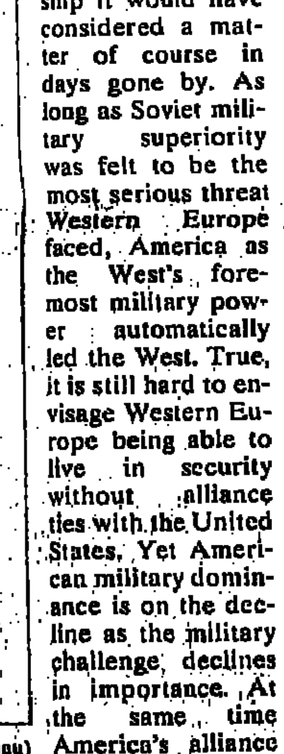
The post-war era is drawing to a close. Military potential is being relegated to the periphery of the political field of force, the discipline of fear no longer works, and power relationships within the pacts are undergoing realignment.

Repercussions thus arise for the Federal Republic as a scion of the post-war era. Bonn has not just grown more self-

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE





(Cartoon: Musil/Frankfurter Rundschau)



Weizsäcker's anniversary speech

Re-elected Bonn President Richard von Weizsäcker delivers his speech to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany. Patriotism and perception, page 3. (Photo: Werek)

■ INTERNATIONAL

Whatever happens, China will never be the same

Wonders never cease in China today, and they fairly take one's breath away. For weeks Chinese citizens have demonstrated in droves for freedom and democracy and against bribery and corruption.

They have done so without once falling out of step or losing their patience. They seem to be guided by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

What is more, powerful forces within the army, which in terms of historical understanding is strictly committed to the cause of communist revolution, refuse to put martial law as proclaimed in Peking by the hard-pressed political leadership into practical, military effect.

While the mandarins of a crumbling communist regime, accustomed to power, try to go on to the offensive and stem with a hard hand a tide of unrest consisting by no means solely of students, there are growing signs of a national revival.

It is one that, remarkably enough, has even taken hold of many of the 50 million or so overseas Chinese who live in the capitalist world.

In the United States and in Australia, not to mention neighbouring Asian countries, overseas Chinese have proclaimed their solidarity with the protest back home.

Deng Xiaoping, whose rule has been challenged, may feel it to be the peak of ingratitude that this wave of protest is partly spearheaded by the thousands of students he sent to the West for training with a view to *implementing his economic reform* plans as swiftly as possible.

Even so, their response cannot be said to have been unexpected. It is due first and foremost to his own behaviour.

Deng once said he wasn't going to worry what colour the cats were as long as they were good mousers. Yet he evidently saw red when returnees from the United States and Western Europe began to say out loud what had previously been no more than a whisper: that more far-reaching political reforms were needed.

The Peking tamer's stated intention of making the Big Tiger draw level with the four little tigers — Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea — long earned the ageing Deng enthusiastic applause.

Yet Deng, as even his communist courtiers admit with disapproval, wanted — and still wants — to retain power.

The younger generation has other ideas for the country's future. They have not even been influenced primarily by Soviet-style glasnost and perestroika.

If the views voiced and slogans shouted by students demonstrating on the Square of Heavenly Peace in Peking can be taken as an at all reliable guide, the impression gained is this:

China's politically committed young people want much more. In this, the 40th anniversary year of the communist takeover, what they want is democracy, and maybe even American-style democracy.

It may not be a realistic objective — any more than the revival of the Internationale as the battle-cry of this vision.

Yet there can hardly be any overlooking the fact that the protest movement, with its amazing discipline, has shaken the Chinese communist system to the foundations.

Behind-the-scenes power struggles reflect a political helplessness that belies the sabre-rattling, testifying to virtual impotence.

The regime has made progress in economic reform. This makes this powerlessness almost tragic. Daily, hourly, there is fresh speculation about the power struggle in Peking, enriched by confusing pointers in the Party press which reveal a close-meshed web of ties between a handful of "ruling families," the top-ranking "nomenklatura" equated by many ordinary Chinese with nepotism and corruption.

There can be no other explanation for the support the young activists were given when they called on the Party and government to acknowledge the independent students' movement, initially vilified, as democratic and patriotic.

Confronted with the initial outlines of a Polish-style Solidarity movement, most of the old guard did not want to to grant the students the recognition they sought. This rejection of what was hardly a revolutionary demand merely quickened what the Old Guard wanted to prevent: the students generating wider support.

The call for freedom and democracy became a massed choir. So did the call for the resignation of Deng Xiaoping and his Premier Li Peng, who first entered the political arena as the legendary Chou En-lai's adopted son and is not prepared to consider more than economic reforms at best.

Nothing can now be ruled out in a country that even at its quietest has been a constant enigma to the outside world.

The wonders that are happening in China plus the confusion that accompanies them, permit only one firm forecast: that *China tomorrow will never again be what it was yesterday.*

Werner Adam

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 May 1989)

Continued from page 1

reliant within the Western alliance since the threat has declined in importance. At the same time Germany's political and economic weight is steadily emerging.

It is no longer enough to call on others, especially the United States, to show political farsightedness and commitment to common Western interests; it is up to the powerful Federal Republic itself to do so.

The missile dispute has given us a foretaste of the difficulties that come with this change. Bonn has largely prevailed on the issue, yet generated widespread mistrust in the West in the process.

The German Question is now being debated by all our allies, with rejection of a reunified Germany being mixed with malaise about a Federal Republic that has grown too powerful.

If Bonn's policies cause suspicions that it is less concerned with common Western interests than with going it alone to the East, it will be doomed to failure in both East and West.

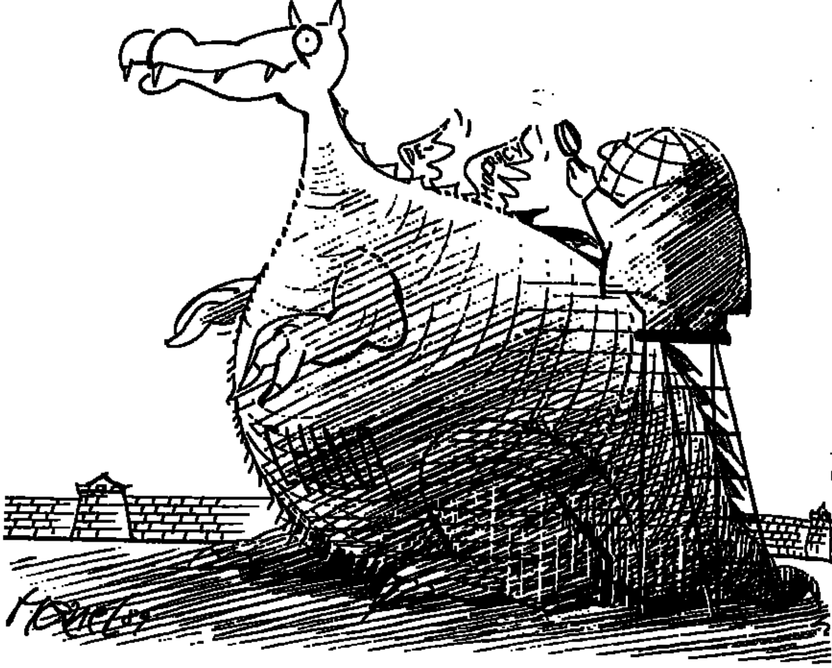
In this latest Nato dispute the West Germans have prided themselves on having seen sooner than some allies shifts in world affairs that changes in Moscow have affected.

This is partly justified, but do they also realise that these changes pose challenges to the Federal Republic itself? We Germans must remain predictable for our opposite numbers in the East and reliable for our partners in the West.

The lesson history teaches us is, unfortunately, that we have often lacked the statesmanship needed to cope with such challenges.

Christoph Bertram

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 26 May 1989)



(Cartoon: Hanel/Frankfurter Allgemeine)

Mubarak leaves his mark on the Arab summit

The only outstanding event at the Arab League's Casablanca conference was at its outset when President Mubarak of Egypt, in open session with the TV cameras whirring, took to the rostrum and delivered a speech that was one of the best ever made at an Arab summit conference.

Representing a country that was shunned by the Arab world for a decade, President Mubarak spoke for nearly half an hour. It took him a mere 25 minutes to impress upon the assembled Arab heads of state Egypt's moral claim to leadership of the Arab world.

While he did not do so explicitly, it was as though Egypt had never been absent from an Arab League summit and as though Hosni Mubarak was the only Arab ruler to be naturally entitled, as it were, to speak to and on behalf of the Arab world.

What he said was far-reaching and not merely for immediate consumption, unusually so for an Arab speaker.

The Arab world, he said, must set aside its disputes and join forces with the global process of conflict settlement and economic cooperation.

The Arab world was rich and varied, but "the Arab citizen from the Gulf to the Atlantic" was sick and tired of leaders who constantly led him into dispute and disunity.

The Arab world must, when all was said and done, ensure that it did not fall even further behind others in both technological progress and advances in civilisation.

President Assad of Syria in his dark suit, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya in his Bedouin dress and the Gulf sheikhs in their traditional white robes listened as the Egyptian leader outlined what he felt must be the shape of things to come.

Each will have interpreted it in his own way, but only President Mubarak himself, confronted daily by the social problems of his 54 million fellow-countrymen, could arguably have made his Casablanca speech.

It was hardly surprising that the conference went on to lose its sense of direction as it dealt with day-to-day disputes. It was convened to help arrive at a solution to one of the Arab world's most pressing problems, the Lebanon conflict.

Lebanon is an issue in which extremely egoistic interests of the parties concerned are involved.

The passage in President Mubarak's speech dealing with Lebanon — both his Arabic and the French translation journalists were given — was vaguely worded.

But there can be no doubt that a ma-
ity of Arab states, led by Egypt,
prefer to see a Syrian troop withdr
the long term.

The classic Middle East issue, th
ab-Israeli conflict, was in contra
problem-fraught. At present it is
enough to lend the Palestinians in the
occupied territories verbal support.

The PLO noted sadly at Cas
that little of the cash it and the Pale
were promised at last year's special
mit has yet been paid (only Saudi A
has paid up so far).

There were thus two keynotes
Casablanca summit. One was the Leb
conflict, which seemingly continues to
fy a solution, with the Arab world ha
looked on idly for far too long.

The other was the Arab-Israeli co
flict, or rather the fact that it has be
relegated to a back-seat role. Even
the PLO was able to notch up an
rect success due to the overall con
ence configuration.

The host, King Hassan of Moroc
regarded as a moderate, and many ob
vers suspect that the United States
him support in preparing for the co
ence.

Immediately before the Casa
conference began, US Secretary of Sta
James Baker called on Israel to set asid
any idea of annexing Arab territory.

That too will have strengthened
hand of Arab leaders who are keen
come to terms with Israel.

The result is an unmistakably encour
ing message to Yassir Arafat's PLO
abandon its present policy, which many
the West similarly classify as moderate.

Heiko Flottau

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, May 198

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Von Weizsäcker re-elected Bonn President

Richard von Weizsäcker has been re-elected Federal President for a further five-year term by the Federal electoral college meeting in Bonn. 881 delegates voted for, 108 against him. There were 30 abstentions, three spoilt papers and a further three were simply not returned. Herr von Weizsäcker thus polled 86.2 per cent of votes cast, as against 84.8 per cent in 1984.

Richard von Weizsäcker enjoys almost universal approval. German society, usually at odds on all manner of issues, is united in its support for the head of state.

People who might otherwise be expected to be at daggers drawn over any political appointment are agreed that Herr von Weizsäcker is a stroke of good luck as head of state.

This almost unanimous approval was by no means a matter of course despite the almost equally impressive percentage of votes cast in his favour five years ago.

Doubts were expressed at the time. Might he perhaps prove too soft, not forthright enough, arguably even too well-meaning and starry-eyed?

These fears proved only that many people had still not realised what mettle Herr von Weizsäcker was made of — despite his long years in politics in both Bonn and Berlin, where he was a most successful mayor.

Those who have met him personally cannot fail to have sensed the healthy political ambition and strength of mind that lay behind his studied charm.

Even Helmut Kohl, who has known him for decades, who persuaded him to go in for politics and who smoothed his path to the Presidency, underrated him.

The Chancellor was not mistaken in feeling Herr von Weizsäcker was well qualified to serve as head of state. Where he was wrong was in his assessment of how independent he might prove to be — a man with a mind of his own.

A seemingly unpolitical, distinguished nobleman, Richard von Weizsäcker has emerged as both a sovereign and an imperturbable political president — more markedly so than either Karl Carstens or Walter Scheel, either Gustav Heinemann or Heinrich Lübke.

If he can be compared with any of his predecessors as Federal President, then — as he too no doubt sees it — with Theodor Heuss.

Dr Heuss, the first Federal President, was expected to be intellectual rather than political as head of state.

Yet he gained widespread acclaim by shunning clichés, by unfailingly holding opinions of his own and by couching them in terms that were the result of his own original thinking rather than of the day-to-day political stock-in-trade.

Herr von Weizsäcker's "success" is similarly based on the fact that he allows himself the luxury of thinking for himself, of maintaining intellectual independence.

He doesn't make do with the usual political small talk, preferring instead to arrive at a judgement of his own, unimpressed by political currents, and not to keep his views to himself.

Richard von Weizsäcker, far from being an unpolitical head of state, is a markedly political President who does more serious thinking, and credits the man in the street with the ability to follow him, than full-time politicians whose prime consideration is invariably how to scale the next electoral hurdle.

His personal appeal is in no way impaired by the argument that his star shines so brightly because other politicians, in Bonn and the *Länder*, are so pallid in comparison.

Yet those who suggest, half in earnest, that the Chancellor and the President might do well to switch jobs must in all fairness admit that there is a world of difference between their two jobs.

There is, for instance, a difference between heading a coalition government that implements health service reforms and philosophising about a healthy mind in a healthy body. The two jobs have different rules.

The expectations placed in Herr von Weizsäcker are likely to increase in his second term, as he well realises. He senses the dissatisfaction people feel with politicians in general. He realises that there is an increasingly widespread feeling of dissatisfaction with political parties that could easily lead to a feeling of dissatisfaction with the state.

That was why, in his first speech after being re-elected, he dealt with why politicians today are held in such low repute.

As head of state he is bound to be alarmed at the way in which party politics is permitting the state to degenerate into a plaything of economic and other interests.

The general public, old and young, are deserting the political parties in droves, sensing how the parties are overstepping

Hannoversche Allgemeine

the mark laid down for them in Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, and steadily extending the benefits they derive from jobs for the boys.

No-one who keeps an eye on what politicians say and what they do can fail to notice that tactics and the quest for power are the measure of everything and that few if any politicians are able or willing to think further ahead than the next election deadline.

The Federal President has long emerged as a non-partisan figure, but as party politics govern the country he cannot be indifferent when ordinary people turn their back on tried and trusted democratic parties.

That is why, in his second term, Herr von Weizsäcker plans to concentrate on reconciling the public and the political parties, or at least on ensuring they are not further estranged.

Ludwig Harms

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 24 May 1989)

Anniversary speech showed patriotism and perception

Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker's speech to mark the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany was a striking, and arguably an outstanding, link in the chain of major speeches he has made, giving German society a series of guidelines.

The speech unmistakably bore his personal hallmark. It was not the result of teamwork by a stable of paid ghostwriters such as full-time politicians frequently use, claiming it to be their own work.

Unusual trains of thought and the precision and balance of the language Herr von Weizsäcker used showed the speech to have been very much of his own making.

It was an amazingly patriotic speech, proudly proclaiming that Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, was the work of Germans, not of the wartime Allies.

In his view the Germans themselves did the hardest and most important work in laying the foundations for the post-war state, starting at the war's end in 1945 and ending in 1949 with the foundation of the Federal Republic.

In a preview of integration within the European Community he was surprisingly strict in ruling out European harmonisation to the exclusion of national features.

He will hardly have been credited by members of the CDU/CSU who voted against him the previous day, when he was impressively re-elected for a second term as head of state, with any such assessment of German history in the four *decades of the Federal Republic and of* the country's future.

At a very few points in his speech he sounded a moderate and restrained note of criticism of constitutional reality in the Federal Republic of Germany.

He felt, for instance, and with some justification, that too much importance was attached, in solving thorny problems, to rulings by the Federal Constitutional Court — and too little expected of the responsible politicians.

At all other levels of societal dispute and pursuit of individual claims Herr von Weizsäcker rightly complained that the *Rechtsstaat*, or state based on the rule of law, had in many respects become a *Rechthaberstaat*, or state in which people were obstinately and dogmatically determined to have it all their own way.

He courageously referred to a single current topic, an issue that has clearly most upset him. It was the Memmingen trial of a doctor accused, and convicted (subject to appeal), of illegal abortion. In this case, he felt, men had not taken sufficient care in passing judgment on the position of women.

Contrary to current intellectual trends, Herr von Weizsäcker staunchly defended the political parties, especially the leading, middle-of-the-road parties.

Few speakers are still as ready as he is to frankly state that there is no substitute for the part played by political parties in a parliamentary democracy.

He was, in contrast, expected to appeal to "political eccentrics" not to give "extremist fringes" a chance.

On state visits that have taken him all over the world, but especially to Eastern European countries, Herr von Weizsäcker has had no qualms in expressing foreign policy viewpoints on his country's behalf.

He has invariably done the Federal Republic a power of good in doing so, often because Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher have been hard pressed to convincingly present a common approach abroad.

That may well be why he felt it was a matter of course to take the anniversary of the constitution as an opportunity to outline the country's European and global orientation.

He may not be fond of sounding a note of strident self-confidence, but he stressed the self-esteem of a sovereign German state, saying the Federal Republic, while not a great power, was not the plaything of other powers either.

He backed the Bonn government on *several counts, expressly supporting* Chancellor Kohl, for instance, in his Nato soundings on the controversial modernisation of short-range nuclear missiles.

There were, he said, German interests not even the Federal Republic's allies could afford to ignore.

On the other hand he urged the Federal government to comment encouragingly on reform endeavours in Eastern Europe and to offer every conceivable assistance — and to do so before the visits to Bonn by President Bush and President Gorbachov.

He referred to Poland in particular. Chancellor Kohl could, it is said, visit Poland at short notice. President von Weizsäcker hopes to do so in a cordial atmosphere too.

Let no-one compare Herr von Weizsäcker's speech to mark the 40th anniversary of the Federal Republic of Germany with his speech marking the 40th anniversary of VE Day, the German capitulation and the end of the Second World War in Europe.

In his historic 8 May 1985 speech the President reviewed the war's end and the Nazi dictatorship. Comparison of the two speeches is inappropriate in that the history of the Federal Republic has been largely undramatic, normal for a democracy and, on balance, encouraging.

The past 40 years have not been decades of injustice, immorality and guilt with regard to other nations around the world.

The opposite has been the case, and that was the encouraging message of Herr von Weizsäcker's 24 May 1989 speech: that the Federal Republic of Germany stands for democracy, human rights and peace and has earned and deserves the esteem in which it is held all over the world.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 25 May 1989)

Who chose him

The Federal electoral college, which met to elect the Federal President in the Beethoven-Halle, Bonn, in May, meets only once every five years to elect a new head of state.

The country's largest parliamentary assembly, it consists of the 518 members of the Bundestag and an equal number of representatives of the *Länder*, or Federal states, nominated by political parties on the basis of proportional representation.

This means it would normally consist of 1,036 members, but due to the vagaries of proportional representation, the body that re-elected Richard von Weizsäcker had 1,038.

Unlike the Bundestag or the Bundesrat, Berlin members have full voting rights. In the ninth electoral college the CDU/CSU had 479 members, consisting of 234 Bundestag MPs and 254 representatives of the state assemblies.

The Social Democrats had 419 members (192/226), the Free Democrats 71 (48/23) and the Greens 67 (43/24). One was a Republican, another an independent.

The electoral college has to be convened by the Bundestag Speaker 30 days before the expiry of the President's term.

Any member is entitled to propose a candidate. There is no debate. Voting is by secret ballot.

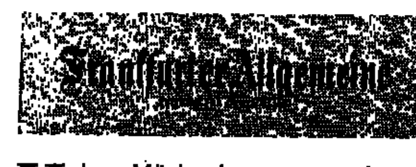
An absolute majority is required in the first and second votes, with the first-past-the-post principle applying in a third vote, if required.

dpa

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 23 May 1989)

■ THE LAW

Life sentence for hijacker: judge explains background of terror and threats



Heiner Mückenberger, summing up as he sentenced Lebanese hijacker Mohammed Ali Hamadi to life imprisonment, said the Frankfurt court he chaired had set out to ensure respect for the law.

It took over 10 months in session to do so, interrogating over 100 witnesses, while a German businessman, an executive of a Frankfurt-based company, was held hostage in Beirut, his life hanging by a thread.

Yet the court handed out the harshest sentence for which the German legal system makes provision: life imprisonment.

Judge Mückenberger made two points that called to mind how hard it had been to go through with the trial.

The court had often been asked, he said, whether in view of the web of international interests it could possibly arrive at an independent decision.

He mentioned the 20 months Rudolf Cordes, the German hostage, spent in Beirut. Herr Cordes was still being held hostage when the Frankfurt trial began in July 1988.

The judge also referred to recent kidnappings in Lebanon. While not going into detail on this aspect of the trial, he made it clear that the court had been well aware that its verdict could have been a death sentence for a hostage.

Yet the court would have arrived at the same judgment even if a hostage had still been in captivity. Independence of the judiciary was the cornerstone of the rule of law and must be upheld despite terrorist threats.

Judge Mückenberger stressed that neither the terrorists nor their victims, with one exception, had been German and that the hijacking had taken place abroad.

Yet the Frankfurt court was not the wrong court, as had at times been argued. He outlined the judicial reasons why a German court was entitled to pass judgment, referring to principles of international law.

The US application to the German authorities for the accused to be handed over to face trial in the United States had been justified, but the German government had decided, with due regard for the lives of German hostages in Lebanon, to try the accused in Frankfurt.

A German court, the judge said, was the most impartial that could be imagined in the circumstances. German public opinion had been most impartial about the Frankfurt legal proceedings too.

He took over two hours to sum up before passing sentence, never once losing track of the legal ramifications. Aircraft, he said, had been hijacked since the 1960s in an attempt to secure the release of fellow-terrorists. Passengers were invariably scared stiff.

Understandable though the hijackers' objectives may at times have been, hijacking must nonetheless be regarded as an act of terrorism — and terrorists invariably sought to make it clear that they would have no qualms about killing their hostages if need be.

He recalled the threat posed by the explosives the accused had twice smuggled into Germany.

The same explosives used in France had wrought havoc and cost many lives.

The court found that the explosives the accused smuggled into the Federal Republic were intended to be used in much the same way — and that the accused was well aware of the fact.

Judge Mückenberger said German legal provisions were most unsatisfactory where explosives of the kind terrorists used were concerned. Couriers faced a maximum penalty of three years in prison.

Criminal justice, he said, was of strictly limited effect where international terrorism was concerned.

The court did not believe the accused's statement that he no longer felt the use of force was justified in pursuit of political objectives.



Court disbelieved him ... hammed Ali Hamadi. (Pho

The proceedings had shown th cused's views on who were his en to be deeply held. If he were rel Mohammed Ali Hamadi would r the ranks of the Hizbollah.

Even while serving his prison sen ence Hamadi would, he felt, remai true to his beliefs. There was no si that he might become a law-abid member of society.

Some might feel a prison sente a poor thing if its sole purpose keep a prisoner in custody in def as it were, of the legal system.

But the Frankfurt sentence mus seen against the background of national terrorism and the threats that occurred in conne with the Hamadi case.

Albert Schä

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Z für Deutschland, 18 Ma

The end of the mysterious abduction of a German aid worker, Markus Quint, in southern Lebanon was reminiscent of a stage production, complete with grease-paint and backdrop.

Days before Lebanese hijacker Mohammed Ali Hamadi was due to be sentenced by a Frankfurt court, Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Berri, leader of the Amal militia, escorted the kidnapped German back into camp.

Berri, who at one stage was all for the hijackers' demands and sent heavily armed men on board the hijacked TWA airliner grounded at Beirut airport, claimed to have forestalled the German aid worker's hand-over to Hamadi's brother.

Abdel Hadi Hamadi, reportedly security chief of the pro-Iranian splinter group Hizbollah, is said to have planned to use the young German as a pawn to blackmail the German court into letting his brother off lightly.

Even in the jungle that is Beirut people are well aware that this threat can only harm Hamadi. Who, then, does it benefit?

It is, for one, a feather in Nabih Berri's cap. As a former accomplice of Hamadi's he now cuts a fine figure as the rescuer of a Western aid worker from the clutches of the Hamadi clan, with their reputation for terrorism throughout the Western world.

Another piece of the puzzle was that in this final stage of the Frankfurt trial the French police issued an arrest warrant for Abdel Hadi Hamadi for having taken part in bomb raids in Paris.

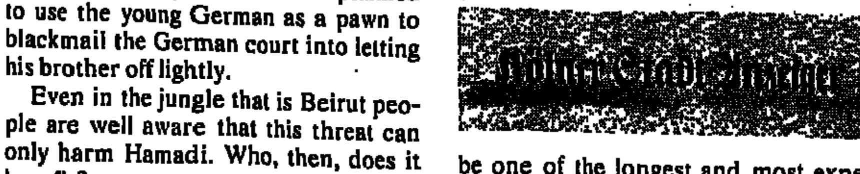
French intelligence arrived at this conclusion in connection with jottings in Mohammed Ali Hamadi's notebook; the court had been through them in July 1988.

More Lebanese jigsaw pieces as long trial finally ends

Far away from the Lebanese civil war and the jungle of violence and religious fanaticism the Frankfurt court had been in session since 5 July 1988, trying to establish the rule of law.

Much though Judge Mückenberger might protest that he was not going to bow to pressure, the court's first months in session were overshadowed by fears for the safety of Hoechst executive Rudolf Cordes, kidnapped and held hostage in Beirut.

The trial was, in any case, the first-ever German trial of a hijacker; it was to



be one of the longest and most expensive in German legal history.

It was held in a converted refectory at Preungesheim jail, Frankfurt. Conversion work for this one-off high-tech courtroom cost DM12m.

Reiner Hamm, the lawyer representing the US government and many of the hijacked passengers, said Hamadi must surely be the first person in legal history to have had a made-to-measure jail built around him.

We may never know how many difficulties were created and obstacles were placed in the court's way. The interests of those who wanted to free Rudolf Cordes at all costs certainly ran counter to those of the court.

What happened behind the scenes in Bonn, Beirut, Washington and Frankfurt was not always to the credit of those concerned.

The accused did not, for instance, himself create the problem of his age, on which the court spent weeks agonising.

It was Mohammed Ali Hamadi's first defence lawyer, a Bonn solicitor whose fees were paid by an unknown principal, who suggested to his "dear friends" in the Lebanon that the accused might be under age and have to be tried by a youth court.

A birth certificate was promptly supplied from Beirut, making Hamadi four years younger. That left the court with a choice of four dates of birth, two forged birth certificates, one that may have been genuine, an expert opinion and dozens of statements by witnesses to the effect that he was either younger or older, depending how well disposed they were toward him.

It was much ado about next to nothing. If Mohammed Ali Hamadi was born on 13 June 1964, as stated in both his genuine passport and the forged passport under an assumed name he was using when he was arrested in Frankfurt, he was 21 on the eve of the hijacking.

So he will have made preparations for the hijacking while he was still 20. As an adult he could still, in view of this factor, be sentenced by a German court to between 10 and 15 years in prison rather than to a life sentence.

International cooperation left much to be desired. Despite fine words condemning terrorism, governments failed to lend the court a helping hand.

The Greek government refused to release its records of the third hijacking which was forestalled, while none of the witnesses who had parleyed with the hijackers in Algiers were available to give evidence and for cross-examination in Frankfurt either.

Neither one of the Greek hostages who were released in exchange for the third hijacker, nor any of the Arabs on board the hijacked airliner who had understood what the hijackers said to each other were available to give evidence.

The court was unable to make contact with some of them. Others were afraid they would be marked men if they gave evidence. Still others, including US citizens, have sworn never again to set foot in an aircraft.

Many contradictions in the depositions by US citizens who were briefed by the FBI can be explained. They had forgotten some details inadvertently, others deliberately, while further inaccuracies were the result of repeated interviews and interrogation.

Three books about the hijacking have been published in the United States, and each writer felt bound to add spice to the drama to keep readers spellbound.

Curt Carlsson, one of the authors, nicknamed Hamadi "Hitler" and alleged that he had said: "One American must die." No-one else claims to have heard these words.

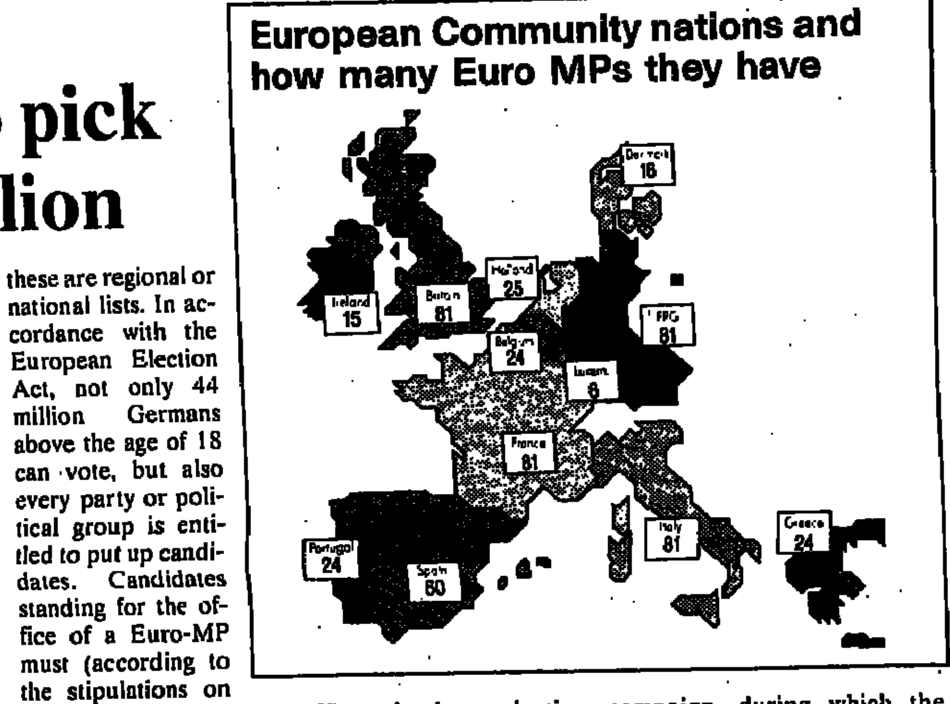
Just before the proceedings began in Frankfurt a leading US broadcasting corporation added insult to injury, as it were, by screening a pseudo-documentary TV drama about the hijacking.

It would hardly have risked doing so if the trial had been held in the United

Continued on page 18

■ PERSPECTIVE

Europe goes to the polls to pick 518 to represent 320 million



Elections in Germany are traditionally on Sundays: local government elections, *Land* assembly elections and general elections. The polling day for the European Parliament, 18 June, is a Sunday.

On that day, 10 of the 12 Community nations will vote: Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Britain and Ireland are sticking with their national habit of not voting on Sundays. Voters there will go to the polls on a Thursday, in this case the 15th.

People on the electoral roll in each country will be entitled to cast one vote each to decide who will represent them in the European Parliament for the next five years.

National traditions, therefore, are (still) more important than uniformity. The fact that 43 million British voters and 2.4 million Irish voters will cast their vote three days before everybody else shows just how difficult it can be for the Community to get all members to follow a common line.

Neither the 518 Euro-MPs in the European Parliament nor the governments of the Community's 12 member states have so far been able to agree on a generally binding election system or on common election rights.

Although the principles of a common procedure were established in the 1978 European Election Act the national electoral laws of respective Community members still set the tone. In other words: the system of proportional representation in 11 Community states and the majority vote system in Britain.

A common proportional representation system was already favoured during past discussions, but internal forces in the European Parliament always managed to prevent it.

For reasons connected with the need for a commonly accepted counting yardstick for the votes cast a "Euro-procedure" for the uniform representation of all Community voters is important for a possible extension of the powers of the Parliament.

The outcome of the European election will not be known until some time after 9 p.m. on 18 June, when the last polling station in the European Community has closed.

The "Thursday voters", therefore, will have to show a little patience before the first projections and, finally, results are publicly announced.

The election procedure for the European election, which applies in the Federal Republic of Germany and according to which 81 German deputies are sent to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, is rooted in the European Election Act.

The election is carried out on the basis of the proportional election system (Hare-Niemeyer system) with party list recommendations.

The parties themselves decide whether these are regional or national lists. In accordance with the European Election Act, not only 44 million Germans above the age of 18 can vote, but also every party or political group is entitled to put up candidates. Candidates standing for the office of a Euro-MP must (according to the stipulations on the eligibility for political office) also be at least 18 years old. The average age of German Euro-MPs is 50.

If the party or political group is not represented in the Bundestag, however, it must obtain at least 2,000 signatures on regional lists and 4,000 signatures on national lists before their candidates can stand for elections.

The federal election committee in Bonn confirmed in April that 20 political parties would be represented on the national lists for the European election.

Apart from the "established" parties in the Bundestag these include the Republicans, the German People's Union (DVU) and the Free German Workers Party (FAP).

The following are also campaigning: a group by the name of *Mündige Bürger* (Responsible Citizens), the Federation of Socialist Workers, the Marxist-Leninist Party Germany (MLPD), a group called *Für das Europa der Arbeitnehmer und Demokratie* (For Europe of Employees and Democracy), the Bavaria Party, the Ecological-Democratic Party, the "Patriots for Germany", the Humanistic Party, the German Communist Party, the New Awareness Party, the "Christian Centre" and the "German Solidarity."

The candidates for the CDU and CSU will be running as candidates on (tied) regional party lists.

During the second direct election to the European Parliament in June 1984 78 of the 81 German representatives were elected according to tied regional lists (CDU/CSU) or national lists (SPD, FDP, Greens), and three seats appointed by the Berlin House of Representatives.

Five years ago the Liberals failed to get the five per cent of the vote needed for parliamentary representation. France is the only other Community country where this clause applies.

Germany, France, Britain and Italy have 81 members of parliament in Strasbourg.

Spain has 60, the Netherlands 25, Belgium, Portugal and Greece 24 each, Denmark 16, Ireland 15 and Luxembourg 6. The number is based on population.

Altogether 518 Euro-MPs act for 320 million Europeans.

Each German Euro-MP represents, arithmetically speaking, 750,000 people.

The turnout in Germany for the Euro election in 1979 was just under 66 per cent; in 1984 it was 56.8 per cent.

Preparations for the 1989 poll are well under way. The candidates and political groups have been picked.

At the beginning of June the public braodcasting corporations in Germany will start screening party-political broadcasts, part of their "public commitment."

This will ring in the "hot phase" of the election campaign, during which the various parties and political groups will be doing their utmost to persuade as many voters as possible to go to the polls.

A great deal already suggests that the 1989 election turnout will be higher than the 1984 figure. The campaign's catchphrase is "internal market."

Regardless of the election outcome or turnout the internal market is bound to come. There is no doubt about that.

The European Commission already presented a special White Paper in 1985 outlining the 300 individual steps needed to realise the common market.

The Single European Act adopted in 1986 paved the way for the translation of the idea into reality.

It is hoped that the biggest single market in the world will have been created by 1993.

Intra-Community trade already accounts for over half of the Community's total foreign trade.

The internal market means dismantling the border barriers, reducing trade restrictions, stimulating competition, and opening up new markets.

The Community's "decision-makers" draw their optimism from *inter alia* the findings of the Cecchini Report, which claims that the project is bound to be successful.

It expects an increase in the Community's aggregate GNP of several percentage points.

The Single European Act is a political milestone — not only for the realisation of the "market without frontiers", but also for the parliament about to be elected.

The Act extended the powers of the European Parliament, which still ekes out a "Cinderella existence."

The Parliament is not the highest legislative authority.

It consults and controls the Commission (the "executive" organ of the European Community) and the Council of Ministers (the Community's "legislator").

In addition, the European Parliament has decision-making powers with respect to the Community budget.

The 1986 reform, however, envisages that Euro-MPs should be given a greater say in Community matters, especially in resolutions relating to the internal market.

The introduction of a second reading has increased Parliament's influence on the Council of Ministers. There is still a great deal to be done.

Bettina A. Greve

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 13 May 1989)

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■ THE WORKFORCE

Broad public support for strike by nurses



Our patience is at an end, say the words on the coffin.

(Photo: dpa)

German hospitals are being hit by strikes for the first time. Until now, that is the sort of thing that happened in other countries or belonged to the television screen.

About 10,000 nurses, male nurses and nursing aides in about 150 hospitals and old people's homes have gone on "token strike."

The unions are battling for gross monthly wage increases of between DM150 and DM300. There are about 200,000 nurses and aides in public hospitals.

Since wage negotiations began in February the employers, made up of central government, the states and local communities, have refused "to consider this demand seriously."

They have made a counter-proposal: better promotion possibilities and higher supplementary payments for shift work and night duties.

The striking nurses have won public sympathy on a scale unusual in this country. The unions have followed by being cautious in order to keep the sympathy: emergency treatment and emergency operations are not being interrupted; intensive-care units are still being manned; and life-and-death services such as kidney dialysis remain unaffected.

In Hanover four women stretched a banner between two crutches. It read: "The patients on ward 18 agree with the strike."

One old lady said that the nurses and aides always did their best "so I can only support what they are doing."

The widespread public support is to a great extent because people know that wages here are at levels for unqualified workers.

Almost everyone believes the 300 marks should be paid. The employers say this would make billions of marks a year.

This extra cost would be met not by associations in local communities or the federal *Länder* but by the health-insurance companies. That means contributions would rise.

Hospitals cost DM40bn a year, which is almost a third of the total health insurance budget; 70 per cent of this figure is taken up by staff costs.

Estimates show that if the trades union demands were acted upon there would be an increase in costs of between DM2bn and DM4bn.

Another element in the dispute, although it does not have a direct bearing on the negotiations, is the shortage of nurses.

The trades unions claim that the shortfall is more than 60,000. This estimate is far too high, but the hospitals do have a problem.

In the profession, there is dissatisfaction about the physical and psychological efforts which have to be put into the job for a poor wages.

There are now many more training vacancies in nursing schools than there are applicants. Almost every second nurse says that, if she had the chance again, she would choose another career.

Patients can see for themselves that nurses are overworked.

Since April the 39-hour week has been in force, a development which the unions themselves have squabbled about. This has made the question of a lack of personnel worse.

The basic problem here is scarce resources. For years the health insurance companies, which are involved in how hospitals are run, have insisted on keeping staff costs down as a way of keeping the lid on overall costs.

The staffing levels belong to an era 20 years ago; hospitals today are very different today.

The Bonn government is trying to distance itself from the dispute and the risk of losing prestige.

Bonn has demanded that employers and employed should come to a quick solution.

The government points out that representatives of hospitals, the health insurance companies and the states are responsible for wage scales and staffing.

The cabinet has emotionally expressed its thanks "for the difficult and self-sacrificing work done by nursing staff."

Words do not achieve much. If the health insurance companies and the hospitals cannot soon agree over a staffing plan, the government is, by law, obliged to find a solution. That would cause fresh anger.

If staffing were increased, costs would rise. Yet the government has only just succeeded in pushing through controversial reforms in the system designed to keep costs down.

Yet if staffing levels are not increased, the government will come in for a fresh wave of indignation.

What is certain is that savings must be made — and that demands painful decisions.

It is also certain that a costs problem cannot be solved at the expense of that section of the profession which is already the worst paid.

Thomas Linke

(Die Welt, Bonn, 12 May 1989)

Retirement — trying to get the figures to add up to enough

There are three bases to financial support in old age for workers in the private sector. One is statutory pensions insurance. The second is the company retirement pension scheme. And the third is individual life insurance.

Disregarding the fact that the last has to be paid for out of a worker's own pocket. The question is then whether the company pension really does create a viable basis for an old-age pension in the private sector.

Anyone who has an undertaking from his employer for a comprehensive insurance, something like 75 per cent of the last gross salary, as in the civil service, or a direct undertaking for an additional DM1,000 or DM1,500 per month, can say that he has adequate provision for his old age.

But usually only executives and top managers have such additional income in their old age. For the rest of those in employment the situation is not so rosy.

Just what the position is at the moment it is hard to tell. The last official investigation into company retirement insurance dates from 1976.

Since then it has been enough for the Employment Minister to continue the 1976 findings and have them amplified by surveys on company pensions undertaken by the Ifo Institute for Economic Research in 1979, 1981, 1984 and 1987.

At present about two-thirds of all workers in the private sector can expect to get a company retirement pension. But this block figure says little.

In the industrial sector the proportion is about 70 per cent, and it is high in banks and insurance companies. In commerce it is only about 21 per cent.

Generally speaking the readiness to offer a company pension is considerably greater among large companies than it is among small ones. The situation is equally bad among the trades.

In large companies in industry with more than 1,000 employees 91 per cent of the labour force enjoys a company retirement pension; in small companies with between 20 and 49 employees only 23 per cent.

The situation is similar in commerce, where in small companies with between three and five employees only nine out of every 100 can take pleasure in the thought that they have additional provision for their old age.

As in many other sectors of life women are put at a disadvantage as regards company retirement insurance.

In 1981 Ifratest confirmed that among male employees in the private sector between the ages of 25 and 60, 54 per cent could expect to get a company pension, but only 36 per cent of the women.

What detracts further from the significance of the company retirment pension is its amount.

If the assuances given to the upper levels of the work force are left out, then the provision is between DM100 to DM900 per month. On average it can be taken it is DM350.

Just how the relatively good company pensions upset the average can be seen from the fact that three-quarters of all company pensions are below the average.

In 27 per cent of instances the retired worker can expect no more than DM100, in 32 per cent of instances between DM100 and DM200, and in 14 per cent of cases between DM200 and DM300.

Just how little the company retirement pension justifies its function as a pillar of an old-age pension scheme can be seen from a report ordered by Bonn from a commission of experts in 1983.

This stated that on the one hand the company pension may become of greater significance in the future, but on the other hand that it would only be natural that not all employees were offered this voluntary payment from the employer.

The trades unions came to the conclusion that those people, whose claims on a statutory pension were such that they were the ones most in need of a company pension, were in fact unlikely to get a look in on company insurance.

This is primarily the case because company pensions are offered mainly in medium-sized and large companies, and because a non-forfeitable expectancy for a pension calls for at least ten years' service with the company.

For this reason part-time workers, people taking early retirement, women, semi-skilled workers or workers who regularly have to change jobs, are put at a disadvantage. This means that the growing wage gap is maintained.

Although the proportion of those who got a company pension rose up to 1980, this development in company pensions has stagnated for the time being.

Since about 1984 there have been cutbacks in the number and quality of company pensions.

Unfavourable economic conditions were responsible for this to some extent, but the main cause was the Company Pensions Law of 1975, which laid down that pension undertakings must be adjusted to general economic developments at regular three-yearly intervals.

There is no denying that the company retirement insurance, thought of as the second pillar of retirement pensions for workers in the private sector, is only effective in a few instances.

If the gap with lavish pensions in the civil service is not removed, or should even become greater, the old-age pensions' system must be harmonised eventually. This was demanded of the government by the commission of experts.

Hans-Gerd Heine

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 20 May 1989)

■ BUSINESS

Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky



Keeping an eye on quality.

(Photo: Werner Bachmeister)

Idar-Oberstein dealer Hans-Dieter Krieger has something special: a pair of elongated, pale yellow diamonds. Slightly crescent-shaped in appearance, they twinkle like stars.

Identical? Of course not, he says. No two stones are absolutely alike. As a diamond grinder and polisher he can tell them apart with his eyes bandaged.

The differences don't just occur when diamonds are ground and polished by experts who transform what is a fairly nondescript raw material into a glittering diamond.

The world's hardest known mineral, consisting of crystalline pure carbon, occurs in nature in such different shapes, *sizes*, colours and transparencies that grinders and polishers are offered 5,000 varieties.

Yet 90 per cent of the world's production is not worth grinding and polishing; it is destined for industrial use.

Were it not for a special industrial diamond no drill could be sunk thousands of metres into the ground. Diamonds are used to grind glass and other materials, and diamonds themselves, of course, can only be worked using other diamonds.

Diamonds rank tenth on a scale of scratch-resistance. They are 144 times more scratch-resistant than the ninth category, which includes rubies and sapphires.

Diamonds and brilliants, as smaller stones are known, are weighed in carats, five to the gram. A carat is subdivided into 100 points.

A one-carat stone is, as a rule, cut, ground and polished from a rough diamond weighing about four carats.

In 1987 the world output of diamonds was over 90 million carats, including 30 million mined in Australia, 21 million mined in Zaire, 13 million mined in Botswana and 12 million mined in the Soviet Union.

South Africa, where the London-based CSO, or central sales syndicate, originated, came fifth with 9.6 million carats.

The Central Selling Organisation is controlled by De Beers of South Africa, which in turn is controlled by the Oppenheimers, first Ernest, then Harry, and now Nicky.

The CSO controls the world trade. It handles the output of its own mines, has contracts with mine-owners all over the world and buys diamonds on the market, handling over 80 per cent of all rough diamonds.

The CSO only sells as much as the market needs, thereby ensuring stable prices.

Even the Soviet Union, which began selling diamonds in 1956, signed contracts with the CSO. Other producers followed suit, clearly not being interested in price cutting.

In 1988 the CSO sold rough diamonds for $4.17bn, or 36 per cent more than the year before. Prices were increased by 13.5 per cent in May 1988, followed by a further, 15.5-per-cent increase in April 1989. Ten times a year a select group of buyers are offered jewellery diamonds worth at least $500,000. Those who don't belong to these privileged few have to buy from dealers or diamond exchanges.

Twenty diamond exchanges are affiliated to the international association, which is based in Antwerp. Idar-Oberstein, headquarters of the German trade, was its 16th member.

It was also the first exchange in the world where diamonds and all other precious stones are traded, which is why it styles itself "diamond and precious stones exchange."

Gustav Manz, doyen of the Idar-Oberstein diamond trade, employed over 2,000 diamond grinders and polishers after 1948, when German labour was inexpensive.

That was partly because the dollar (and the diamond trade is dollar-based) was worth more in those days. Nowadays smaller stones for which labour costs are significant are ground and polished mainly *in India*.

The 200 grinders and polishers still employed in and around Idar-Oberstein usually handle none but half-carat and larger stones or are experts in special varieties of grinding.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, as in the United States (not to mention Japan), keener interest has been shown of late in jewellery in general and diamond jewellery in particular.

This is due, to no small extent, to the advertising campaigns launched by the CSO, which last year had an advertising budget of roughly DM14m in the Federal Republic alone.

Yet according to market research by De Beers one German woman in two still doesn't own a single piece of diamond jewellery.

In the first nine months of last year over one million pieces of diamond jewellery were sold in the Federal Republic. That was 28 per cent more than in the same period of 1987.

Turnover of genuine jewellery is estimated to have totalled DM5.2bn last year, of which diamond jewellery accounted for over half the value and over half the quantity. And both are on the increase.

Keener interest is also being shown in the criteria by which the value of a diamond is assessed. Many will have heard of the Big Cs: carat, colour, clarity and cut.

Yet every stone has extra characteristics, and their relationship also affects the value. That is why it wasn't easy to arrive at agreed criteria.

A start was not made in Europe until the 1960s. In 1975 the international association of diamond exchanges and the international association of diamond grinders, meeting in Amsterdam, set up a body that was to draw up binding criteria for classifying finished diamonds.

It consisted of seven members from Belgium, Holland, Israel and the Federal Republic, including two diamond experts from Idar-Oberstein.

The criteria they devised were unanimously accepted by both associations meeting in Tel Aviv in 1978.

The HDR Institute in Antwerp and the Diamant Prüflabor GmbH in Idar-Oberstein were already using these criteria.

The Prüflabor is a laboratory set up by 10 Idar-Oberstein diamond dealers. It is a non-profit facility where stones weighing a quarter of a carat and above are tested separately by at least two specialists with the full range of equipment.

Their certificates list 16 criteria by which the stone's quality is assessed.

Diamonds of any size no longer change hands without a certificate, says Max Günther, manager of the Idar-Oberstein test lab.

People who have owned diamonds for any length of time can have a jeweller of their choice send them to Idar-Oberstein to be assayed.

The criteria listed in the certificate are so specific that no expert should have the least difficulty in identifying it. A certificate costs about DM200 per carat.

Last year the laboratory issued about 10,000 certificates. It alone guarantees the specifications listed, having taken out special insurance cover.

The trade takes a dim view of sealing stones in transparent foil and holding them as an investment. It will hear nothing of laser "printing" either. That, says the lab's Dieter Hahn, is no guarantee where black sheep are concerned.

Anything can be sealed in foil, he says, and laser markings can be removed by ion bombardment.

Yet by means of the 16 criteria assessed in Idar-Oberstein an expert can identify a half-carat diamond from a lot of 100 stones within 10 minutes.

Even so, buyers ought to think first and foremost of diamonds as jewellery, and as jewellery designed to please.

Then, and then only, should they consider buying diamonds as an investment, although they have been a stable asset when times were hard in the past.

But what if more and more deposits are found, as has been the case in recent decades, leading to a surplus of supply over demand?

Political complications might make it impossible for De Beers to continue to control the diamond market and diamond prices.

What if the London syndicate were broken up? If it weren't, it certainly wouldn't be for want of trying. Even experts can't say how much a fine one-carat diamond or an even larger stone might then be worth.

Gudrun Stämpfli

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 13 May 1989)

Meteorological stations all over the world



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THE CONSUMER

Mangoes, kiwifruit and papaya head the invasion of the exotic

Exotic fruit, much of it tropical, is pushing its way on to the German market. The biggest success story is the kiwifruit, but the mango and the lychee are also among the front-runners. Authorities in the business say travel is a big reason: Germans on holiday taste something exotic and when they return home, create demand. Many factors govern which fruit sells best. A big promotion campaign which New Zealand could afford but which would be beyond the resources of most Third World countries has pushed kiwifruit. Then there are factors like appearance: there are 100 varieties of mango but the tastiest don't look appealing and therefore don't sell. Andreas Rinke looks at the German taste for exotic fruit for the *Hannoversche Allgemeine*.

It was a dark-green fruit as large as a fist and covered with scaly knobs. The man in the supermarket looked at it with uncertainty.

The fruit was a cherimoya from Kenya. Such oddities for the European eye and palate were once available in specialist delicatessen and bought by a mere handful of insiders. Now they are on supermarket shelves.

Mangoes from Columbia, carambolas from Malaysia, lychees from China — the range of international fruit gets wider every year.

On his voyage of discovery to America in 1493, Christopher Columbus might have been amazed at the banana. At look what has happened to that! Last year, Germans again topped the world league of banana consumers.

Fruits such as guavas, tamarillos, kakis, and Cape gooseberries are still relatively unknown. They make up just a minute part of the 1.7 million tons of citrus and tropical fruit imported into Germany last year.

Government statistics show an enormous increase in imports in recent years. Under the heading "Other fruits" 94,000 tons were brought in 1980; last year it was 205,000 tons.

Importers say travel has much to do with the boom. Taste a fruit in Peru or India; try and buy it back home.

Karl Heinz Lossau of the Kaufhof department store chain said that the trend in food generally was to eat less but more individually — and better. Kaufhof food departments are selling more and more mangoes and papayas.

Consumers with more money in their pockets are are looking to satisfy exotic tastes in fruit. Restaurants are buying more and more tropical fruits for cocktails and for decorating cold buffet tables.

Supermarkets now can choose from any of about 500 different kinds of tropical fruit to stock their shelves with.

Hans-Joachim Moldenhauer of the West German Fruit Importers and Wholesalers Association in Hamburg is confident that the upward trend will continue. But there are likely to be few success stories to match that of the kiwifruit.

The small, green, vitamin-full fruit from New Zealand has had an enormous success on the West German market in only a few years. In 1987, the value of imported kiwifruit was 181 million marks. Last year it was 221 million marks.

Moldenhauer says this success is not only because of taste but more because of the large advertising campaign the New Zealanders mounted.

But this success is now bringing problems. France and Italy are cultivating



more and more kiwifruit. Last year a good third of West German imports came from European Community countries.

The Dutch, agile and full of ideas when it comes to the cultivation of out-of-season fruit and vegetables, produced 573 tons of kiwifruit last year.

Professor Helmut Jacob of the Geisenheim Research Institute says however that the Dutch are not going to repeat the success they had with lettuce and tomatoes.

Because of the European climate, greenhouses must be used to grow kiwifruit. But the price of kiwifruit has been dropping, making greenhouse cultivation increasingly unprofitable.

For the time being there is no place for German agriculture in exotic fruit production. But plans are being laid for the future at Munich University's Institute for Fruit Cultivation.

Work is being undertaken there to produce a variety of "Bavarian kiwi," frost-resistant, which could be cultivated in this country in a few years' time.

But there is no chance that mangoes and other tropical fruits can be grown in Europe. Exotic fruits will continue to be imported from countries overseas, but sales are unlikely to rise swiftly.

Developing countries cannot afford the marketing which the New Zealanders have been able to provide.

This is why the European Community and the West German Association for Technical Cooperation are both helping developing countries in the production, exporting and marketing of exotic fruits.

The support provided by the Technical Cooperation Association costs almost DM300,000 per year, according to Jürgen Schönwald, responsible for trade promotion in the Association. This assistance helps in the long-term to increase the export opportunities of the developing countries.

But even in future, consumers will have to pay a lot for exotic fruit. For, unlike bananas, most are harvested ripe and flown to Germany. Of the four marks a consumer pays for a kilogram of mango, two marks goes for transport.

Consumers will continue to be annoyed that what cost them pfennigs on holiday costs them marks at home.

Air transport also sets limits on the expansion of the exotic fruits business. Importers such as Lennart Heuer of the Hamburg importers Weichert & Company complain that there is insufficient space in airfreighters, so that increasing imports cannot keep pace with demand.

Only recently has it been possible to carry mangoes on banana boats. These take 10 days to get to Europe.

Mangoes, rich in vitamin A, originally came from Burma but they are now cultivated in various parts of the world. According to experts they have the best chance of success on the market, along with lichees and carambolas.

Moldenhauer pointed out one of the particular features in the exotic fruits business. As many consumers did not know what the fruits looked like or how they tasted, they were guided by their feelings and their eyes.

For this reason fruits which were wrinkled and did not look well but tasted good had limited chances.

Moldenhauer regretted, for example, that of the 100 varieties of mango there are in the world only the yellow-red variety could be supplied to consumers in Germany. Yet the deep-green varieties were the most tasty and the sweetest of all mangoes.

Andreas Rinke

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 May 1989)

Euro court rules in favour of substitute milk products

Substitute dairy products made from a vegetable base such as soya-cheese, ersatz butter and powdered milk specifically made for coffee can be offered for sale in Germany, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg has ruled.

This however does not affect regulations governing misleading labelling and information. Milk remains milk and butter remains butter.

After two previous complaints concerning "pure" beer and "pure" sausage, the judges made it clear for the third time that they saw in Bonn's consumer protection arguments a pretext for protecting the German dairy industry.

The German farmers' association regretted the ruling but the consumers association said it took the consumer into account.

It was the third time the European Court of Justice had decided in favour of the views of the EC Commission, which this time brought Germany before the court.

The prohibition of the sale of products with an artificial milk base is in accordance with dairy products legislation dating from 1930.

This legislation bans the sale in Germany of products which look like cheese, milk powder or butter, but which are wholly or in part not made from animal fat and albumen.

This ban, the European Court ruled was an infringement of the free movement of goods and merchandise in the European Community.

The same view was taken on German law governing beer and sausage. The judges said that the argument of consumer protection was not valid, for a label could easily ensure that the consumer had the necessary information about the product.

The European Court rejected Bonn's objections that authorising the sale of substitute products harmed agricultural policy as a whole.

The court said the solution of the problems of milk surpluses was a matter for the Community and not individual member states.

The consumers association welcomed the ruling. The German food industry would now be in a position to offer new, interesting products of vegetable origin.

Consumer Association spokesman Thomas Schlier in Bonn said that many people who could not tolerate milk products or who, on their doctor's advice, had to be careful about their intake of cholesterol, would welcome the alternative products.

Many products, which until now were only available at a price in health food shops, will now be available from ordinary food stores. Schlier believes that there will be an extension of the range of vegetable-animal milk products.

The ruling by the European Court brings to an end the third major case which the Federal Republic government has fought against consumer interests for the protection of German producers, flouting the EC treaties.

It is also to be hoped that an end will be brought to deliberately misleading the public, which has been part of the trials involving beer, sausage and milk.

Milk still remains milk, and butter butter, for misleading information and deception by false statements still remain prohibited.

Most of the completely harmless additives, such as soya products, are already being used by the West German dairy products industry, according to the Consumers Association.

Along with Schlier, Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle said vegetable substitutes for dairy products must be clearly labelled in future. The minister said in Bonn that anyone who wanted to buy "pure" milk products should not get "all kinds of additives."

He announced that he would have detailed discussions with the dairy products industry and famers' organisations after he had carefully study the text of the Luxembourg judgment.

He said that in the case of easy-to-spread fats, clear labelling regulations must be introduced for mixes of milk fat and other fats.

Herr Kiechle appealed to the European Commission to produce as soon as possible proposals for the harmonisation of European dairy regulations.

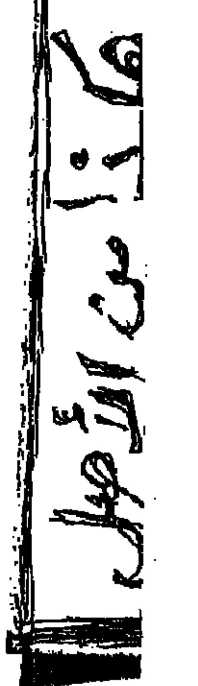
The farmers association said the abolition of the import ban on milk products of vegetable origin was "a decision against quality, consumer protection and honest competition in foodstuffs."

Baron Constantin von Heereman, chairman of the Farmers Association, promptly demanded that the Federal government and the dairy industry should "limit the damage."

He said that the abolition of the import ban was no reason to cancel without a replacement the ban on substitutes according to the conditions of the German milk regulations.

Controls on foodstuffs must be intensified, so that no "falsified" foodstuffs including banned additives reached West German shops and supermarkets.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 12 May 1989)



THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

Volkswagen wins the European title — but can't find the champagne

Volkswagen outsells all other European carmakers. In 1988, it headed Fiat by a tiny margin. But when the board went to celebrate the fact with a glass of champagne, they found there wasn't any.

It was the fault of managing director Carl Hahn and his austerity policy. He had ruled that it was only to be served in the canteen when VIPs were hosted. The board had to make do with Saar Riesling, a white wine costing only half the price of champagne.

Competition for last year's sales title ended in a photofinish. Volkswagen sold 1,941,000 cars in 1988. Rivals Fiat deducted VW's minibus sales, arguing that they were commercial vehicles. That left VW a hair's breadth 1,400 vehicles in the lead.

Profits last year were the best in the firm's history, but that didn't merit a glass of champagne either. The board simply shook hands in congratulation.

"We can't assess results in terms of previous years' balance sheets," Hahn said in an interview with *Die Welt*. "We must bear future requirements in mind."

Pre-tax group profits were DM1.5bn, or well over 1987's DM960m, but Volkswagen trailed Fiat, Peugeot and Ford of Europe in this particular discipline.

They all earned more than double the profits Volkswagen reported for 1988. "If we had Fiat's wage bills," Hahn said, "we would earn an extra DM1bn too."

The well-matched product range, from the Polo to the Passat and the Corrado, is Volkswagen's guarantee for the future. Another is the fact that VW subsidiaries the world over all made a profit last year — for the first time ever.

Hahn sounds as cool, calm and collected at a moment of heady success as he did in 1987 when Volkswagen were in serious trouble.

Two years ago foreign exchange dealing cost the company a packet, sales were good but profits paltry, and subsidiaries were not working anywhere near as satisfactorily as had been hoped.

Now, two years later, business is booming. Hahn is hailed as a top-notch executive.

Does he feel satisfaction at having disproved his critics? Has success gone to his head? He smiles, adjusts his cufflinks and says:

"It hasn't gone to my head, but who wouldn't be delighted by success? Yet I know only too well how elusive — and what an obligation — success is.

"In a market economy we have to keep up the good work without interruption. Good results are neither laurels to rest on nor a safe haven."

Hahn is not all smiles like Lee Iacocca, who takes a fine balance sheet as an opportunity to call in the cameras and tell the world just who its greatest executive is.

Hahn prefers not to betray his emotions and tends to concentrate on economy as a corporate objective. "In an affluent society we are duty bound to economise," he says. "And that happens to be part of my personal philosophy.

"I'm not saying you oughtn't to be able to afford a little luxury, but in industrial manufacturing thrift is a moral obligation — to the economy and to the customer."

He sees the Japanese as setting an example to be followed. Even now they are even more prosperous than the Germans they continue to live in as Spartan a manner as ever, and do so deliberately.

"I feel we in Germany are going to have to change our entire outlook, our philosophy, in this respect," Hahn says.

"Economy must not just be indispensable when times are hard; it must be our permanent motive force."

Everyone expects VW's profits to increase next year and increase yet again the year after. Is that possible with markets growing steadily tougher and forecasts for the motor industry sounding a note of caution?

Hahn, 62, has no doubts: "New, technologically outstanding models, optimum manufacturing techniques and lower overall production costs will see us through."

What he doesn't say, as a manager who has always sought to remain on the best of terms with his staff, is that — as Professor Porsche put it a few weeks ago — all members of staff are going to have to adopt a different outlook if the company is to hold its own.

Germans must work harder and concentrate on better quality, Professor Porsche says.

Fiat workers certainly make 16 cars each per year, statistically speaking, Peugeot and Citroen workers 14 each and Volkswagen workers just over twelve. So there is room for improvement.

New models are fast taking shape, with the research and development division working hard on the Golf Mk III and the new Polo.

The external appearance of both models is already more or less definite. They will be unveiled at next year's Frankfurt motor show.

New versions of the Polo, the Golf and the Scirocco are planned; so are alternative propulsion units and pollution-free diesel engines.

A prototype hybrid, combining a diesel engine and flywheel for battery power runs on a fuel consumption of 2.5 litres per 100km, or 112 miles per gallon!

Wolfsburg research and development engineers are also working on facilities for stationary vehicles. "Just selling cars is no longer enough," Hahn says. "You have to supply traffic systems and urban parking facilities."

Volkswagen feels duty bound to cater for this end of the market, and a multi-storey car park designed by Professor Walser and based on a Ferris wheel principle may be the answer.

Each car drives into a chamber that then moves one up, revealing the chamber for the next vehicle. This technique seems to stack more cars in less space than any other arrangement.

Hahn does not skirt the problems presented by the private car, but points out that pollution control has already made substantial headway:

"We have progressed with the development of catalytic converters and engines that run on less and less fuel here in Europe. That all costs a lot of money which needs to be earned."

Investments on this scale only earn money when customers buy the product developed. Legislative pressure is, of course, indispensable in connection with such safety requirements as the seat belt. This is, he says, an instance of natural interplay between industry and politics.

"No customer is going to spend that much money unless he sees an immediate personal advantage. The much-maligned German Federal government has done more to protect the environment than any of its predecessors or any other government in Europe.

"Bonn provided the incentives that got matters moving all over Europe."

Hahn, an engineering graduate, is clearly annoyed that Opel, not Volkswagen, was the first German carmaker to make catalytic converters a standard fitting for compact models.

"We have a full range of cat models," he says, "and those who are now making such a song and dance were long the most behindhand."

Recovering from this bout of indignation, he readily admits: "It was, of course, a fine sales ploy and created a most convincing impression."

The catalytic converter is still a very topical issue at Volkswagen, where Hahn has been criticised by his works council chairman, Walter Hiller, who has publicly stated that he feels it is disgraceful to manufacture cars that aren't fitted out with a catalytic converter.

How does he feel about coming under in-house fire in this way? "He (Hiller) knows as well as we do," Hahn says, "that we are duty bound in European markets to sell models as legally required at any given time.

"We must also give customers an opportunity of buying what is legally permissible. We can't afford to leave a part of the market to others."

Asked how he feels about the argument that too many fast, expensive cars are made, Hahn says that enjoying your motoring is part of joie de vivre.

Car-owners don't work hard to be able to buy a 500cc two-stroke model. "If we were to say we need economy compacts and not six-, eight- or twelve-cylinder models, we might just as well go back to living up trees."

Hahn adjusts his gold-framed glasses and looks out over the works and toward East Germany: "This used to be a backwoods location on the intra-German border, but not any more. I now see it as an excellent central location in what, one can but hope, is a world at peace for all time.

"We are now the industrial enterprise with the best location in Europe."

Referring to cooperation with neighbouring East bloc states, he proudly mentions the engine project Volkswagen embarked on at a time when no-one had even considered the idea.

"We will be taking delivery of engines from East Germany and be collaborating with East Germany on the basis of genuine partnership," he says.

Volkswagen's collaboration with China is going ahead according to plan and in keeping with realistic expectations.

He sounds a more cautious note on cooperation with the Soviet Union, saying:

"We are still at a stage of sounding out prospects and ideas for a groundwork that suits the needs of the other side too."

This pattern of international cooperation, including preparations for projects in Bulgaria and Hungary, undeniably shows Volkswagen to be a pioneer in this field.

Carl Hahn feels it is "the recipe for future success at Volkswagen."

Heinz Horrmann

(Die Welt, Bonn, 19 May 1989)

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■ FILMS

More spice in this rice: young directors show out

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Ralf Hüttner's *Mädchen mit den Feuerzeugen*, Jan Schütte's *Drachenfutter* (in English "Spicey Rice"), or Christian Wagner's *Wallers letzter Gang*, are all films by the younger generation of film-makers.

They have won nominations for awards extending from the Bavarian Film Prize to the Federal Film Prize.

Apart from their distinctive work the directors of these films have something else in common: they belong or belonged to the film cooperative "Der Andere Blick."

Nicolas Humbert, who made *Wolfsgrub*, and Werner Penzel, who made *Vagabundenkarawane*, founded the group in 1985 along with five friends. Their aim was to avoid the selection mechanism of the established film industry.

Aided by a collective production system and direct distribution by film-makers to cinemas, it was hoped that works could be offered to the cinema-going public which contrasted an unusual way of seeing things with a standardised vision.

Often with the sole copy in their suitcases the seven appeared in one small film club after another. The industry looked upon them as pathetic.

They were then unknown. Most members of "Der Andere Blick" have since become well-known. In a film industry whose prime injunction is to adjust a collective is, as it once was with the Filmverlag der Autoren, more necessary than ever.

But the group is not very keen to be labelled. Werner Penzel said: "We regard ourselves less in the tradition of the New German Film or any such school of film-making.

"We want to look back to the beginning of film-making, when there were still pictures which are no longer possible or have been forgotten."

He continued: "We want to promote films which do not get a showing through the normal distribution networks."

They were not striving to create a circle of esoteric film-makers, but a broad-minded group, always open to new stimuli and colleagues, whose individual development should be guaranteed by helping each other.

They wanted to overcome the tendency to "single combat," as Humbert put it. They wanted to become independent from the standards imposed by TV and promotion committees.

In this way, with very little cash, considerable films dealing with the contemporary debate about affairs in the Federal Republic were produced — using 16 mm film and material collected together in black and white.

This debate is the major taboo of the film scene.

Almost all the films which get involved in this come from "Der Andere Blick" directly or from film-makers linked to this group.

Lutz Konermann investigated unerringly and with flair the question of the stationing of nuclear weapons in *Vorwarnzeit*.

Werner Penzel has produced a portrait of Nicaragua which was turned down by television.

Christian Wagner has reflected on the realities of the Federal Republic with a film, part documentary, part fiction, on the last working day of a railroad checker, *Wallers letzter Gang*.

With radical courage Philip Gröning identified himself in *Stachoviak* in experiments in the psyche of a deformed city-dweller, and Jan Schütte's *Spicey Rice* wittily hit out at xenophobia in the Federal Republic.

Not all the films have been good. Sometimes the script was poor. This has been a need which has been explained as a virtue.

Bizarre montages replace narrative, allegedly in order to stimulate the viewer's imagination to make him or her a participant in the film.

Nicolas Humbert explained: "I do not produce an experience complete. I produce fragments of contradictory reality, which are turned into a film in the viewer's own mind."

Total failures have been avoided to a large extent by working together. This practice of exchanging information about contacts, financing and film possibilities, puts a stop to egoism and thoughts of one's own career.

But before this phalanx of friends could become a reality it seemed to crumble again. The directors who were successful, particularly, drifted away from the group; some have left the group completely and go along paths which were once scorned.

Nico Hofmann, who made *Der Polenweither*, *Land der Väter* and *Land der Söhne*, for instance, has done some timely, boring tricks out of a subtle coming to grips with his past.

Ralf Hüttner's first film, *Das Mädchen mit den Feuerzeugen*, a surrealist Odyssey through the nightly existence of underdogs, filled audiences with enthusiasm.

His second film, *Der Fluch*, put together too hastily, is a disappointment. It flies off into the mystic world of an Alps-sage horror story.

At present the cooperative is said to be "closed down for the time being." Pity if this alternative group was closed down without any ado so that desired norms were justified.

After the establishment of "Der Andere Blick" the group said of itself: "While every effort will be made to look directly ahead, we are proud that we squint."

Günter Jurczyk

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 14 May 1989)



Hollywood films are designed like cars, says Wenders. (Photo: dpa)

Hollywood *too* regimented for Wim Wenders

German director Wim Wenders has left Hollywood. He was initially impressed by the freedom big budgets gave directors. But the lack of spontaneity cramped his style. Other European directors agree. Helmut Voss reports for the Bonn-based national daily, *Die Welt*.

The American film industry tends to like to organise films from the beginning. Improvisation is frowned on.

This is a disadvantage for many European directors who go to America with ideas of taking their European spontaneity with them. Some are successful. Two of the more notable are British, Alan Parker and Adrian Lyne.

Those who have put their toe into the Hollywood water and found *it too hot* include Roger Vadim, Louis Malle, Roman Polanski and Wim Wenders. Wenders likes changing dialogue and even whole scenes during shooting. At the end of the day, he is quite likely to have something completely different to whatever was planned that morning.

Wenders moved to America in the mid-1970s and lived for seven years there, in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, producing *Hammett* and *Paris, Texas*.

Wenders said that at first he was glad to get to Hollywood because every film budget had "an extra nought" on the end.

In Europe "limits were set; in America every kind of expansion was possible if it was just a question of money. The dimensions are greater."

After his enforced departure from Hollywood and his last "American" film, Wenders said: "I'll never do that again. Hollywood is too controlled. Producers want to know everything about the film they are responsible for — exactly.

"They do not like directors saying to them that now something different is going to be done. But that is the only way I can work. Films are designed in Hollywood like cars are built in Detroit — every detail has to be worked out beforehand."

The two Wenders films mentioned illustrate the dilemma which confronts the director in America. *Paris, Texas* was shot according to Wenders' methods. *Hammett* was not. The irony was that *Paris, Texas* was the more successful. Wenders worked for four years on *Hammett*, which the US film critic Leo-

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It sounds paradoxical to describe prison as the place of freedom, imprisonment as the process of liberation.

A woman finds liberation behind bars

But this paradox is accepted as natural in Tevfik Baser's second film *Abschied vom falschen Paradies* (Farewell to false paradise) — his first was *40 m2 Deutschland*.

Baser is Turkish but he has German nationality. In his film he tells with seriousness but without awkwardness the story of painful emancipation.

Elif is sentenced to six years' imprisonment in Hamburg, because she had killed her Turkish husband, who had raped her and for years humiliated her.

Only behind the protecting walls of the prison is she safe against the thirst for revenge by her husband's family. In prison she is able to free herself from the chains of religious and cultural traditions.

Step by step she discards the traditional values of her Turkish homeland. She takes off the head-scarf, openly shows her hair and she dresses smartly as far as is possible under prison conditions, soon in line with her new German surroundings.

She learns German. "Hunger," "cold" and "anxiety" are the first words she learns in the language.

Soon she is inundated with human warmth, which her fellow-prisoners lavish on her.

This is the weak point of the film, which describes prison life from Elif's viewpoint as a place of freedom, of a place where there is solidarity between the inmates.

There is only indirect reference to the grimmer side of prison life, to the neuroses and emotional irritations of many of her cell neighbours.

The fact that the emotions do not get the upper hand is due to the good and very good performances of the actresses, particularly the main actress, Zuhal Olcay.

She gives by gesture and movement an indication of all stages of her efforts for freedom as a person under pressure. She shows her development and with her reactions reflects tender joy, hopes and fears in her face, which never has the effect of being just a mask.

The film is leisurely and shows changes in detail. The camera work is imaginative, but not clogged with the unnecessary.

Baser knows that he is telling a good,





Time to think, in *Paradies*. (Photo: Impuls-Film)

credible story, which does not need and could not tolerate any fooling around.

It is not a matter of documentary realism for him, but the exemplary nature of this woman's fate. For this reason Baser is economical with symbols and dream sequences.

Elif's situation is made oppressively clear, tersely and with emphasis, in some of the scenes. She waits for the vis-

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■ THE THEATRE

The last bastion of pantomime



The 100th anniversary of Charlie Chaplin's birth has given any number of opportunities to admire his art as a pantomimist.

One only has to think of *The Immigrant* of 1917 with his masterly presentation of feeding the masses in the belly of an ocean-going liner; or of the famous final scene of *City Lights* (1931), when the tattered tramp modestly sinks his eyes as the flower girl realises that he *is the man* who had made it possible for her to be cured of blindness.

But how is the art of the pantomime today? Kefka's Theater in Cologne no longer exists, so the only pantomime theatre in the Federal Republic is now the Makal City Theater in Stuttgart, which was founded in 1981.

The Pantomime Festival, which is organised by Peter Makal, has taken place for the seventh time in Stuttgart.

Makal was born in Kolin, in Czechoslovakia, which he left in 1968 at the age of 19. Before he came to Germany he worked with Marcel Marceau and with the Folies Bergères in Paris.

The Pantomime Festival this year is again an event in which internationally important performers in the art take part, a festival organised by Makal without financial support from Stuttgart or Baden-Württemberg.

Fourteen groups from eight countries accepted his invitation to come to Stuttgart. Unfortunately there were none from the East Bloc, even though in Poland alone there are 31 pantomime groups.

Makal himself took up the first evening: in the first half with style pantomime; in the second with *Exe*, a character who is, he says, water, plants, demons and people all in one.

He showed in his number "Volksfest" that he commands to perfection the art of changing, physically and intellectually, with lightning speed into various characters.

In "Volksfest", Makal is a woman, no longer the youngest, who quickly adjusts her hair and makeup when she sees a young man — also played by Makal — in an effort to make herself attractive to him. He does not react and she reverts to being a provincial middle-class woman — and she is deeply offended. A second later Makal is a child demanding candy floss. She is given it, licks at it; then her fingers, now stuck together, are wiped clean.

Then he is a dog which grabs the sweet candy floss; now he is a policeman walking confidently through the crowd.

The high point of his performance is the tranquil dance "Solitude," from which he got the name "the dancer with the hands."

He lies on the floor. Only the arms and hands, stretching upwards, are moved. The shadows on the white wall show the play of the hands.

The right hand pursues the gently moving left hand, which seems to change into a cuttlefish, then into an evil, snapping swan. But as the motionless left hand remains unmoved, the right hand eventually sinks, exhausted.

The following two days were taken up by Ko Murobushi and Urara Kusanagi, the most famous exponents of Butoh Dance in Japan.

Tatsumi Hijikata, whose pupil Murobushi is, founded this form of dance. Butoh Dance, translated literally, means "Dance of Darkness." It is unlike the classical form of Japanese dance, or Kabuki Theatre and is uninfluenced by the West.

The dancers are almost naked and display unambiguous sexual scenes, which shocked conservative Japanese audiences of the 1960s.

On the first evening Murobushi appeared alone. He stood like a plant on stage, veiled in red, motionless. Then he moved slowly to music which gradually became louder.

His toes were warped like the bound feet of Japanese women. He minced forward to the stage ramp and finally rolled crookedly down the stage stairway to the audience.

Murobushi, huddled up, squatted on the ground, croaked and roared like an animal — a despairing, human insect.

He sprang up from the squatting position and paused in the posture of a javelin thrower.

The following evening was taken up by Murobushi and his wife, Urara Kusanagi. The theme was the relationships between the sexes.

Urara Kusanagi is small and dainty. Her whole body was painted white and powdered. She looked like a geisha. Her white face gave the impression of a death mask, the arms, reaching backwards, seemed like wings without feathers. She opened and closed her mouth as if she were snapping at air.

The male approached her, dressed in black. His white heels looked threatening. His arms buried themselves in the woman. They met each other without finding common ground in harmony.

The applause of the spellbound audience, mainly young people, lasted a long time. They were completely overcome by the art of these artists from Asia.

The two abandoned themselves. On stage they were other people and then became themselves again, silent, smiling but nevertheless serious.

The festival was continued with artists from Spain, who brought with them 600 kilograms of earth from Spain for their piece entitled *Gea* or "Earth."

There were also Peruvians who showed Indian art and Chileans whose performances were politically motivated. Groups from Brazil, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia also took part in the festival.

Finally two German pantomimists performed, Rolf Mielke from Wiesbaden and Jörg Boenecke from Berlin.

At the finale of the festival Makal appeared twice. He showed his "Christ". It is to be hoped that Makal, who gives 250 performances annually, and who is also a pantomime teacher and managing director, director and set-designer, has the necessary peace and quiet to prepare this material.

He presented not only Christ's Passion but also those who examined, mocked, tortured and sentenced Jesus.

Makal's Theater is in Stuttgart's Marienstrasse, right in the middle of the shopping precinct.

It stands alongside cinemas with their wild posters; nestled alongside computer firms and snuggled between fast-food shops like an anachronism, like the last bastion of the art. It is hardly likely that there is anything comparable in Western Europe.

Brigitte Jeremias

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 May 1989)



Sandwiched between the hamburger joints and the computer firms . . . the Makal City Theater. (Photo: Suzana Limburska)

Wim Wenders

Continued from page 10

nard Maltin described as "a dainty film for fans."

It is a work of homage to the American crime writer Dashiell Hammett with Frederic Forrest in the title role.

Wenders made the film, which had a budget of $7 million, for Francis Ford Coppola's production company Zoetrope. Coppola and the distributors, Warner Brothers, were disgusted with his working methods.

It took a year to shoot the film. There were four scriptwriters and 40 different scripts.

According to informed sources Coppola re-shot some of the scenes himself. Warner Brothers only released the film after long delays.

Later Wenders described working with Coppola as "war between two methods of making films. I was someone who had made eight films in Europe in a completely different context and according to different traditions. He was someone who wanted to renovate the American studio system."

Unlike these films *Paris, Texas*, with Nastassja Kinski and Harry Dean Stanton, was made in America with financing from Europe and according to Wenders' tried and tested methods — a road movie which was constantly changed during shooting.

The script materialised after a talk with American playwright Sam Shepard, whom Wenders wish wanted to play the title role in *Hammett*. The script was constantly revised by phone after filming began.

The film was shot during an eight-week trip from Texas via New Mexico to Los Angeles.

Wenders saw in *Paris, Texas*, which in the end cost less than three million dollars and which won the Golden Palm in Cannes, his answer to the *Hammett* fiasco — Wenders was president of the jury at this year's Cannes Festival.

He made a barbed comment in 1984, quoted in *Variety*, which showed what he thought.

"*Paris, Texas* is an epic film. No American director could have made such a film for less than five or six million dollars. I know how to make a film for little money better than people in Hollywood believe."

Speaking of his American years Wenders said last year: "After *Paris, Texas* I was certain that I was no longer as obsessed as I had been previously with America. In a certain way I have said what I wanted to say about America. I found that it was time to look out for other stories to tell."

Helmut Voss

(Die Welt, Bonn, 18 May 1989)

Continued from page 10

it of a young Turkish fellow prisoner with whom she has exchanged tender letters. She makes herself look chic. Her fellow inmates fit her out in the Western taste.

Confidently, but with a little uncertainty, she enters the visiting room where her brother is unexpectedly waiting for her.

The neck of the dress, which seems to the viewer more modest than bold, is transformed before his eyes to a disgrace.

Elif frantically covers her nakedness, goes the long way to the table where her brother is with bowed head.

He abuses her, calling her a whore. She rebels for the first time and asks to be taken back to her cell.

The young Turkish girl does not develop directly; there is always something ambivalent about her.

Hesitantly at first, then ever more willingly, she defuses the pressures of her origins, until finally new dangers threaten from the outside.

After having served her sentence she must reckon with deportation and a new sentence in Turkey.

When she is released before her sentence is up because of good behaviour, she slashes her wrists in despair.

Baser leaves no doubt about his criticism of the deportation procedures of the German authorities, but he declines to place blame and does not produce a villain.

The women guards in the prison are strict but correct. Brutal characteristics are shown by Elif's brother at most, a prisoner in his own illusions.

The quiet film gains in tension, but there is nothing dramatic in it.

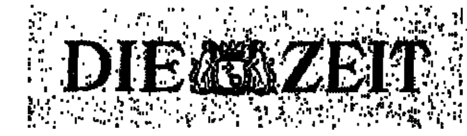
The open, unspectacular ending causes unease without excitement.

Karl-Ludwig Baader

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 May 1989)

■ AVIATION

Cleaner engines needed to cut high-altitude pollution



Lufthansa engineer Hans-Peter Reichow, tried and trusted head of the airline's Hamburg aircraft workshops, has switched jobs.

His new job is to ensure that the German flag carrier does not come into disrepute for polluting the environment.

Civil aviation is growing so fast, Lufthansa head office says, that airlines are duty bound to run their services in as environment-friendly a manner as possible.

Lufthansa is keen, the airline's spokesmen say, to maintain and expand its pioneering role in this sector.

Herr Reichow is determined to set about his new task as thoroughly as he did when he was in charge of aircraft maintenance.

The airline has good reason to take such precautions and to bolster its image. Scientists, ecologists and politicians are busy discovering aviation as a threat to nature and the environment.

Several ecological groups, such as the BUND, short for League for the Environment and Nature in Germany, have decided as a matter of policy to ban domestic flights by members of staff.

The atmospheric pollution debate was triggered by a survey commissioned by the Environmental Protection Agency (UBA) in Berlin from the Rhineland region of the TÜV, or Technical Supervision Association, the agency best known as being in charge of roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles.

The report submitted by the Cologne-based TÜV engineers estimates that the 2.8 million-plus tons of aviation fuel a year consumed in German air space are converted into nearly 90,000 tons of noxious substances.

Civil and military aviation are equally to blame. Over half this total consists of carbon monoxide, one third is nitric oxides and the remainder includes smaller quantities of hydrocarbons and sulphur dioxide.

Even so, this 90,000 tons amounts to only about one per cent of the total output of harmful substances by traffic of all kinds.

Like so many surveys financed by the taxpayer, the TÜV report might well have gathered dust in the bottom drawer of some official desk or other had it not been for a noteworthy comment on page eight.

At high altitudes, the report said, "aircraft are a major source of anthropogenic emission and can have a perceptible effect on the atmospheric chemical cycle."

This marginal comment by the TÜV experts in their 136-page report has long been recognised by climate research scientists to be a serious danger.

As physicist Hartmut Grassl of the Max Planck Meteorology Institute, Hamburg, puts it, aircraft exhaust fumes are emitted into a complex chemical compound that can easily lead to a sector of the atmosphere "going haywire."

Nitric oxides are particularly problematic, contributing to either the creation or the depletion of atmospheric ozone.

As both the one and the other occur in the wrong atmospheric layer, the role aircraft play is felt to make them dangerous meddlers with the climate.

The facts are complicated and not yet known in anything like detail, yet research scientists are agreed that nitric oxide emission, especially by intercontinental flights at altitudes of between 10 and 12 kilometres, is converted into ozone under the influence of sunlight.

At higher, stratospheric altitudes ozone is depleted by CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons or spraycan gas), allowing a higher dosage of ultraviolet radiation to pass through the atmosphere and increase the cancer risk at ground level.

Replacement of this lost ozone in the stratosphere would be fine. In the upper troposphere, in contrast, extra ozone is most undesirable.

In this extremely cold atmospheric stratum ozone prevents the reflection of heat back into space. That, says Dieter Ehhalt, head of the department of atmospheric chemistry at Jülich nuclear research centre, is why aviation contributes toward the greenhouse effect.

The solution might appear to be to transfer intercontinental flights to even higher altitudes and there to offset ozone depletion due to CFCs in a manner that benefits the environment. That would not, sad to say, be the case.

Stratospheric nitric oxide emission leads to even swifter ozone depletion. Whatever we do, Grassl says, is wrong.

The chemistry of the atmosphere is put out of joint by hydrocarbons, carbon monoxides and soot particles as well as by nitric oxides. The exact effect of particle emission in particular is not clear.

Even steam, which has little or effect that might possibly be termed serious near ground level, can wreak havoc when frozen high above the clouds in the form of ice crystals.

H_2O is emitted in quantity: 1.25 tons per ton of kerosene. The resulting condensation stripes lie like cobwebs on cloud cover and exercise a substantial effect on heat radiation. This effect, Grassl feels, may soon far outweigh that of other aviation-related environmental influences.

The by-products of aviation fuel combustion can be dangerous nearer ground level too. Much of the atmospheric emission that is to blame for respiratory complaints and forest damage occurs at near-ground level in the vicinity of airports.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, for instance, emission is clearly highest near Frankfurt am Main, with its international airport.

Over 40 per cent of atmospheric hydrocarbon emission by civil aviation occurs in the Frankfurt area, which is followed, at some distance, by Düsseldorf, Munich and Hamburg.

Airlines pride themselves on having constantly alleviated these environmental problems by modernising their aircraft. The new Boeing 737-500 Lufthansa will shortly be using on short-haul services makes 90 per cent less noise than its predecesor.

New aircraft turbines emit a mere fraction of the toxin output of older engines.

There is an economic incentive in both cases. Landing fees are pegged to the decibel count, while aircraft designers, in their endeavours to cut fuel consumption, automatically reduce hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide emission at the same time.

The only note of discouragement that must be sounded is that modern, fuel-efficient aircraft engines emit even more nitric oxides.

Besides, improvements in aircraft design will remain a mixed blessing. New aircraft may be quieter and cleaner, but by the turn of the century there will be twice as many of them in use.

Fritz Vorholz

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 26 May 1989)

Pilots exposed to high levels of radiation

Airline pilots live dangerously. The annual radiation level, 500 millirem, to which cockpit crews are exposed is over twice as high as at nuclear power station.

With reference to the resulting cancer risk Cockpit, the Frankfurt-based pilots' association, has drawn attention to this problem in Hamburg, calling on the authorities to enact health safeguards.

Pilots say several factors are to blame. One is the increasing amount of radioactive material carried as air cargo on board passenger aircraft.

There are said to be few, if any legal provisions to which these shipments are subject. Geiger counters are not used at German airports.

Besides, crews are constantly subjected to cosmic radiation at high altitudes. Its intensity varies according to altitude and geographical location.

It is particularly intense above 10,000 metres and on North Atlantic routes or flights that cross the North Pole.

At higher altitudes cockpit crews are also said to come into contact with radioactive reminders of 1960s nuclear tests and the 1986 Chernobyl reactor meltdown. Dangerous particles have settled at the very altitudes used by intercontinental flights.

Last but not least, crews face a radiation source in the form of monitor screens, six of which are said to emit 425 millirem a year.

The cancer risk even of exposure to low radiation of this kind is much more serious than used to be assumed, specialists in nuclear medicine now say.

The outcome is only apparent after several decades. That is why *Cockpit* advocates keeping records of the radiation exposure to which crew members are subjected, as is done on board the Anglo-French Concorde.

Flight crews must also be given extra medical checks. Packaging and transport regulations for radioactive cargoes must be amended and crews issued with geiger counters to check cargoes themselves if need be.

A Marburg specialist in nuclear medicine, Professor Horst Kuni, says passengers are at risk too. "A passenger who sits on top of a radioactive cargo on a transatlantic flight is exposed to many times the annual radiation ceiling," he says.

Martina Wengierek

(Kieler Nachrichten, 19 May 1989)

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■ DRUGS

Cocaine legacy of Fleischl von Marxow lives on in the cult of the yuppie

The world's first recorded cocaine victim died in 1891. He was a morphium addict by the name of Fleischl von Marxow.

He is known less for having died of a cocaine overdose than for having been treated for morphium addiction by a Viennese doctor, Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, in 1885.

Freud prescribed the cocaine that went on to be the death of Fleischl von Marxow. Between 1884 and 1887 he wrote half a dozen essays enthusiastically advocating cocaine, then a fashionable new drug, to treat morphium addiction.

Other doctors soon disagreed. In *1885* Albrecht Erlenmeyer pilloried cocaine as the "third scourge of humanity," the first two being alcohol and morphium.

To this day cocaine has retained an ambivalent image. In Berlin in the 1920s an estimated 20,000 cocaine addicts veered between the dubious glamour of their literary testimony to avant-garde life styles and the downright squalor of their addiction.

In the mid-1970s a fresh cocaine wave began to sweep America. As it spread, official views on the danger it posed progressively turned full circle to resemble the viewpoint proclaimed by Dr Erlenmeyer in 1885.

Narcotics specialists have forecast since 1980 that the cocaine wave would spread to Western Europe. In 1981 the first postwar trials of cocaine dealers and users in Germany were held in Munich.

Between 1982 and 1983 there was a 300-per-cent increase in the amount of cocaine confiscated by customs and the police.

In 1984 the Bonn government, answering a parliamentary question tabled by the FDP in the Bundestag, said:

"The Federal government regards the increasing amount of cocaine coming into Western Europe and into the Federal Republic as particularly dangerous."

The amount is still increasing. After trebling in 1983 it increased almost fivefold by 1988. Four kilograms of cocaine were confiscated in 1978, 32 kilograms in 1982 and 496 kilograms in 1988.

The number of people arrested in connection with cocaine offences has increased nearly fourfold since 1982, to 2,308 last year.

Like Interpol, the Bundeskriminalamt, or Federal CID, works on the assumption that the quantities confiscated are no more than five to 10 per cent of the total smuggled.

In other words, nearly five tons of cocaine were smuggled into the Federal Republic of Germany last year. That is enough for at least fifty million trips. By the same token, the total quantity smuggled into Western Europe must have amounted to 56 tons.

The rapid increase in cocaine consumption tallies with the yuppie cult in the United States and Western Europe. The effect of classic dropout drugs, up to and including heroin, doesn't fit the yuppie image.

Heroin makes you feel remote from reality, whereas cocaine is a well-nigh ideal drug for the young, upwardly-mobile professional. It activates, stimulates, boosts efficiency, gives you self-assurance and is purported to have an effect on your love life.

In other words, it turns you on. Yet this stimulus, this euphoric effect, is the drawback. It can lead to emotional dependence, in other words addiction.

Unlike morphium, heroin or alcohol, cocaine doesn't make you physically addicted. But it can cause mental dependence, a controversial concept that is hard to forecast, being influenced by an abundance of individual circumstances of the user's private and public life.

This alarming unpredictability of the course of cocaine consumption is one of the reasons for growing alarm about the rapid progress the drug has made.

The Bundeskriminalamt says mental dependence on cocaine leads not infrequently to higher doses that are a health hazard, not to mention its use in combination with other, harder drugs, especially heroin.

According to an autumn 1988 US survey cocaine consumption by a pregnant woman can be a serious health hazard to her unborn baby.

What is more, since the mid-1980s cocaine has increasingly spread from its up-market users to the less well-to-do. This demographic trend gives rise to a twofold fear.

First, cocaine consumption in the seamier sections of society will be far less subject to the social control exercised by the world of high society.

So its misuse seems likely to have steadily more dramatic consequences, including heightened addiction and a growing number of drug deaths.

Second, cocaine is expensive. The less well-to-do cannot afford it. So there will probably be an increase in the number of offences committed by addicts in the quest for cash to buy their cocaine.

This trend, which has much in common with heroin and what its use entails, is viewed with growing dismay by narcotics squads as cocaine smuggling and distribution grow increasingly sophisticated in Europe.

Cocaine is smuggled in the lining of all manner of containers. It is mixed with adhesive and modelled into South American statuettes or religious figures.

Clothing or luggage is soaked in cocaine dissolved in alcohol or chloroform and then dried. The pure alkaloid can be reconstituted by the simplest of chemical techniques.

The growing European sales market has led to more economic, large-scale transport methods. Couriers used to smuggle cocaine individually and at great expense, flying detours to conceal the fact that they originally came from South America. Larger quantities of cocaine are now arriving by sea.

Shipments are usually landed somewhere on the Spanish coast, which has countless ports and bays on which a constant check cannot be kept.

Cargoes are generally transferred at sea under cover of darkness from freighters to power boats and landed at various points on the coast to spread the risk of being caught.

Diario 16, the Spanish newspaper, says an estimated 40 per cent of European demand was met by shipments landed in Spain last year.

The Spanish authorities report a dramatic increase in the quantities of cocaine confiscated, but that, sad to say, need not mean they are growing more effective at catching drug runners.

In 1992 the single European market is scheduled to end trade barriers within the European Community. The Colombian cocaine Mafia for one can be sure to be looking forward to this deadline.

Reinhard Merkel

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 19 May 1989)

Pushers 'waiting for 1992's single market'

Nearly 70 people from all walks of life attended a weekend seminar on drug addiction at the Protestant Church academy in Tutzing, Bavaria.

They included doctors, chemists, educationalists, lawyers, law enforcement officers, students and others.

Some approved of what they heard, others were appalled.

"If you must mainline drugs, then at least stay as healthy as you can" was said to be a widespread adage in neighbouring Switzerland.

Addicts in the Swiss capital, Berne, are provided with sterilised needles and Methadone as a heroin substitute.

"We have no choice but to live with narcotics so we may as well adopt new approaches," Peter Burkhard told the seminar. "There are no narcotics victims," he argued, "only victims of narcotics policy." Views differed on this and other ideas outlined at Tutzing, where many approaches were outlined but none seemed to be the sure-fire solution to the world's growing drug problems.

The various approaches were seen to be too wide-ranging to be sure of political support.

Some speakers, like Peter Burkhard from Switzerland, called for the legalisation of so-called soft drugs, such as cannabis, to "decriminalise" users.

A Dutch speaker even advocated providing a legal supply of heroin to hit out at the black market, on which adulterated drugs are often sold.

Volker Limburg of the German Bundeskriminalamt called, in contrast, for a tougher approach to the narcotics trade. Dealers must stand to forfeit all their ill-gotten gains, as in the United States and Great Britain.

He was told by Hans-Jörg Albrecht, a constitutional lawyer from Freiburg, that this "skimming off of profits" would be illegal until such time as the constitution, and other legal principles, was amended.

And as Wolfgang Winckler, the Hesse narcotics commissioner, put it, legal changes ought not to be undertaken without having given thorough consideration to the consequences beforehand.

Even though most statistics are mere estimates, the international situation is extremely serious. The narcotics trade's annual turnover is estimated at nearly $500bn, part of the proceeds being invested in gun-running and terrorism.

In South America alone coca leaf, from which cocaine is refined, is grown on 500,000 hectares, or nearly 2,000 square miles, of land.

By comparison, the total area under cultivation by wine-growers in the Federal Republic of Germany is 100,000 hectares.

Smallholders can just about eke a living from the proceeds of coca farming, whereas the clans that control the trade, practising systematic terror, as Herr Limburg put it, make a fortune and have their henchmen in positions of authority everywhere, including the government.

In Europe an estimated 1.3 million, mostly young, people are heroin addicts, according to the European Parliament.

In the Federal Republic of Germany there are said to be about 60,000 heroin addicts. In Munich there are an estimated 30,000 cocaine users.

"Drug users take whatever is available on the market," Herr Limburg said, forecasting that the post-1992 single European market would be even more attractive for organised crime unless prompt action was taken.

But what can we do? "There are no effective counter-strategies," Herr Albrecht said. "That," said another speaker, "is an admission of total bankruptcy."

The only point on which all were agreed was that it was not enough to warn young people against taking drugs.

They must be given a hope for the future that stems the tide of frustration which prompts them to backslide into drug and alcohol addiction. True enough, but not exactly news, is it?

Karl Rolthmeier

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 8 May 1989)

Hijack trial

Continued from page 4

States. Contempt of court would have cost the network a fortune.

The US authorities did not, by any stretch of the imagination, make all documents and statements about the hijacking available, while differences between legal systems further bedevilled the quest for truth.

When an FBI agent submitted a 47-minute tape of unknown origin to the court last March he said he had much better material. He failed to explain why he didn't submit it.

Mohammed Ali Hamadi, a child of the Lebanese civil war, is no fool. He didn't prepare to hijack the US airliner unwittingly, as it were. He impressively explained to the court why he did what he did and how his family had suffered during the civil war. He admitted he had been one of the hijackers but claimed not to have killed Robert Stethem, a US passenger, said nothing about details and was frequently shown to have lied.

In his native Lebanon he may be a hero; in the Frankfurt courtroom he wasn't.

Richard and Patricia Stethem, parents of the US Navy diver who was killed, deserve respect.

They missed not a day of the proceedings, and in the final stages of the trial they were joined by two of their sons.

The Stethems gave no interviews, not even to US camera teams. Their quiet sorrow was an impressive reminder of the personal toll, political and judicial ramifications apart.

Marianne Quoirin

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 17 May 1989)

■ HORIZONS

The spirit of Khomeini thrives at a posh Hamburg address

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Friday prayers at the Islamic centre. The faithful align themselves towards Mecca. At the front are the men; at the rear are the women, veiled. They are from three continents.

As they listen to the sermon, the blasting tones of a brass band rise and fade. Devotion here, festival atmosphere there. For this mosque is nowhere near the Persian Gulf. It is in Hamburg. Its twin minarets and blue dome push into the sky in one of Hamburg's most pleasant parts — on the Aussenalster, the broadest part of the River Alster which stretches away towards the city and its famous spires in the distance.

Schöne Aussicht 36 is the address. And it does not have only religious significance. The directions come straight from Iran. The highest authority here in far away Europe is none other than the Ayatollah Khomeini.

His portrait, larger than life, hangs on the wall of the assembly hall and, as an icon, it is in the office of the mosque's head, Muhammad Moghaddam. Moghaddam, 36, comes from the centre of Islamic fundamentalism in Iran.

His teacher was Mohammad Hossein Beheschti, who as the senior revolutionary judge began the first big wave of executions and who, in 1981, was assassinated.

Beheschti knew what his students in Hamburg expected. Because he himself helped found the mosque there and from 1960 to 1969 was the leader of the Islamic centre in Hamburg.

When Khomeini became politically active, Beheschti was at his side. He followed him to Paris where the fall of the Shah was planned. He almost returned to Hamburg — accompanied by Khomeini. If France had not renewed Khomeini's residence permit in 1978, he would have come to Hamburg, as he hinted to a German politician. With a twist of fate, the current Imam at Schöne Aussicht 36 might have been called Khomeini.

His revolutionary theories are, however, being promulgated without his presence. Glossy brochures glorify the regime of the mullahs; groups of German visitors to the mosque are treated to a lecture about the "theology of liberation"; Muslims from various nations are told the correct course.

The mosque's influence is not limited to Hamburg: Imam Mogaddam is the most senior Shi'ite cleric in Germany and has close contacts with, among others, to the union of islamic associations in Europe. His Hamburg mosque publishes a German-language magazine (*Die Morgendämmerung* — The Dawning) which is circulated throughout the country. It also publishes many books and pamphlets, some translated into several languages.

The head of the centre is rated highly even in Iran itself. That is made clear from the career of Moghaddam's predecessor, Khatami, who went direct from Schöne Aussicht to the Teheran education ministry.

Christian Lochte, head of the Hamburg *Verfassungsschutz* (Office for the Protection of the Constitution, which handles counter-intelligence inside Germany) says the mosque is Khomeini's political agitation centre in Europe. American intelligence circles go further. They regard the centre as a terrorist base. Opposition Iranian sources say that Moghaddam himself was recently named as the leader of the Khomeini regime's terrorist activities.

Lochte regards this as all speculation. However, for him it is clear that the Shi'ites at Schöne Aussicht are compliant servants of Khomeini.

The magazine The Dawning proclaimed about the Salman Rushdie affair: "The decision of the Imam on 14 February will without doubt go down in history. The Imam uttered what millions and millions of Muslims felt."

The message was made clearer to Hamburg students. The walls of the university were sprayed with the exhortation: "Death to Rushdie, Death to the Friend of the Devil."

It was clear that the Islamic centre could not itself speak out in such terms. The paper claimed that, in protesting about the "shameful work" it was not the intention to ignite a religious war, but far more to promote inter-religious dialogue. Also, the mosque is financed not only by Teheran but also by Iranian businessmen who attach more importance to business connections than religious fanaticism.

According to official statistics, there are precisely 10,381 Iranians registered at the centre — making it Europe's biggest Iranian colony. Forty per cent of German imports from Iran are processed by the German-Iran chamber of trade, which has its headquarters in Hamburg. Although many Iranian businessmen are not Khomeini supporters, they erected the mosque as their tribute and desist from public criticism. They don't want to lose business contacts in Iran; and they are afraid.

One Iranian art dealer in Hamburg said: "You have to fear being bumped off by Khomeini's assassins." He attends the mosque, which he helped pay for in the 1960s, only on important holy days. He remembers Beheschti well. His children went to his Koran school. "He has come round 180 degrees since he returned to Iran. When he was here, you could talk with him."

The art dealer, whose father was also in business in Hamburg, solidly supports the German constitution. He welcomed the fall of the Shah and is now bitterly disappointed over the "black dictator" who has taken his place.

"Khomeini should have restricted himself to religious matters. But the mullahs are getting involved everywhere even though they haven't the slightest idea what they are doing. Private fortunes are confiscated because the owner is supposedly an unbeliever. The economic situation is near collapse."

The longer he talked, the angrier he became: "Friends of mine have been murdered. All innocent people. Children are sent to their grandparents because their parents have been arrested. There are tragedies every day."

Alone since the beginning of the ceasefire in the Gulf last August, there have been 12,000 people executed, according to international human-rights organisations.

He says it is just as bad that Islam is being equated with Khomeini's terrorism: "Islam is a tolerant religion. God is merciful. I have carried the Koran in my pocket since I was 10." He also suffers because of the image Iranians have in the world. "The whole world thinks we are monsters. But we didn't have a war for 140 years. We lived peaceably with people of various origins. We lived liked brothers." Brotherliness is also the theme of the Friday sermon. The enemies of Islam, however, are not included. They stand united with Satan.

Heinrich Thies

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 May 1989)



Lots of speculation about what goes on inside Hamburg's mosque. (Photo: dpa)

Turks' plan for mosque with minaret divides a town

The bone of contention is 26 metres in length, later reduced to 22 metres: a minaret to be built on a mosque in a small town in North Rhine-Wesphalia. It caused the leader of the local SPD to be thrown out of a restaurant with a warning never to come back; it prompted the deputy mayor to join the ultra-right-wing Republicans because she supported Social Democrat policies on the issue; and it provoked threats against both Turks, who will attend the mosque, and the architect who designed it. Udo Ulfkotte picks up the story for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Waldbröl (pop: 16,000) is a tranquil little town in the west of Germany which, in recent times, has opened up to the world: three years ago it entered a twin-town link with an English town; and further links are planned with a Dutch, and Israeli and an East German centre. Among the 16,000 inhabitants are 600 migrants from the Soviet Union and Poland.

The mayor, Herr Halbe, assures that there are no difficulties with the migrants. But the anger of many is directed at another part of the population: the 250 Turks who no longer want to say their prayers in the old abbatoir which has been their mosque since 1981.

Now they have saved up 520,000 marks and have bought a former factory owner's villa in an industrial area and have arranged for the interior to be reconstructed. This has got many of the Waldbrölers all worked up. There have been tirades of hate against both the Turks and the architect. The bone of contention is that a 26-metre high minaret that will be visible for a long way is to be built. According to an anonymous postcard sent to the deputy mayor, Frau Hermes, this "brazen" act of ordering the minaret "has sown hate".

People living in a residential area above the industrial area are afraid that their peace and quiet will be disturbed. They believe that a muezzin will make the call to prayer five times a day. But the architect says that a walkway for the muezzin is not included in the application. "Just like with us, a tower belongs to a church, so a minaret belongs to a mosque." In Germany, there are about 1,000 mosques, 10 of which have a minaret.

It is a curious tale and it might have not become known far beyond the community if it hadn't been for the fact that local politicians are worried about an impending local election. Barely were the plans for the mosque made known than a citizens' initiative was begun. Signatures were collected to back a demand that the town reject planning permission for the minaret.

The politicians were in a dilemma: they wanted to capitalise on general feelings of xenophobia, but they also they felt obliged to observe the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of worship. While the churches in Waldbröl preach tolerance, the Social Democrats discovered that Islam "takes an extremely hostile stance towards women" and suppressed Social Democrat ideas.

The Christian Democrats, the party of mayor Halbe who has become clandestinely regarded as the "campaigner for the minaret", appears split on the question. Some CDU councillors fear that Waldbröl could become an inter-regional Islamic rallying point and develop into a sort of Mecca in this part of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The image of hostility is being conjured up more and more. This has a lot to do with the (extreme right wing) Republicans. Deputy mayor Frau Hermes used to be a member of an independent voter group but, when she publicly announced that she was supporting the SPD on this issue, she was dismissed from it and joined the Republicans. The Republicans say: "The minaret is a provocation. If they (the Turks) behave differently from other people, they will be regarded as hostile."

The head of the local Republicans, Grumbrecht, asked: "Are the Turks, by building this mosque, not abusing the hospitality of the Germans?"

Obviously most of the council members had similar thoughts because, although there were no valid objections in terms of planning regulations, the planning committee took a secret vote and rejected the application.

That this decision did not have a leg to stand on, legally speaking, was clear to all involved. Then, at the end of April, a repeat vote was held and, this time, the application was approved.

The architect said: "If the building application had been in the end rejected, the town of Waldbröl would have had to pay damages of 800,000 marks." He reached a compromise with the Turks to reduce the minaret from 26 metres to 22 metres. He also has a document in which an offer

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■ FRONTIERS

Old Sepp's foaming elixir of Hofbräuhaus life

They don't come more regular than old Sepp Sollnberger. He has seen them come and go. Hitler, for instance. Saw *him* off. Sepp, 88, has been coming to the Hofbräuhaus, Munich's best-known beerhall, since 1918, the year he was confirmed. "I come two or three times a week and drink a glass, maybe two. But I've even drunk only water when I had no money — and no one ever threw me out." The Hofbräuhaus doesn't have a quiet season. Day after day, the tourists file with the locals into one of the many separate halls. There aren't any quiet nights, either. Bands play, people sing and there is usually a traditional punch-up between one or two of the lads. And all the time, the litre krugs of foaming ale keep flowing. This year is a special one for Old Sepp's local. It is 400 years since the Hofbräuhaus was founded — or, more accurately, since the brewery which makes the house's own beer was founded. The original building was on the site of today's tax department. The beerhall is owned by the state of Bavaria but is leased out to private management. Karl Stankiewitz tells all about it for the Cologne daily, *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*.

Four hundred years ago, in 1589, Wilhelm V, called the Pious, "graciously" commanded the setting up of a brewery for the considerable needs of his court.

This later encouraged wits to say, in rhyme, that there was "a duke in Bavaria, whose thirst was great, but he had a lot of servants and their thirst was even greater."

In 1644 the Hofbräuhaus was removed from its first home in the Old Court of the Residence in Munich to the Pratzl, just behind the New Town Hall, where it still stands today.

But the building, with its gateways, towers and oriels, has since become more ornate.

It has also become an emblem for Munich along with the onion towers of the famous *Frauenkirche*, which was built between 1468 and 1488.

This emblem has been marketed worldwide like a trademark; beerhalls with the Hofbräuhaus emblem are to be opened in the big cities of Japan.

The Hofbräuhaus' fame has been spread by postcards, most of them kitschy; and through the visits by the great and famous from all over the world.

This is where crowned heads have mingled with happy, carousing commoners.

Ludwig II of Bavaria, the fairytale king, regulated the price of beer there, pricing it just a little below other big breweries in Munich.

The Austrian empress, Elisabeth, called Sissi, the wife of the Emperor Franz Josef I, drank from an earthenware tankard there just as did Krupskaya, the wife of Lenin, who spent a short time in Munich in 1913.

Hitler staged his first mass meeting in the Hofbräuhaus in 1920.

The American writer Thomas Clayton Wolfe, of *Look Homeward, Angle*, described the Munich beer-drinking scene as "a kind of German heaven."

Bavarian writer Ludwig Thoma immortalised his porter Aloysius in his book *Münchner im Himmel* (A Munich man in heaven), who as an angel came back to the Hofbräuhaus, where he drank too much and forgot the divine message he had for Bavarian government.

400 years old and still curing thirsts . . . the Hofbräuhaus in Munich. (Photo: dpa)

There is no quiet season at the Hofbräuhaus. Day after day Americans, Japanese, "Prussians," and other tourists rub shoulder to shoulder there with the moody Munich citizens, who collect in the "Schwemme," one of the many rooms, or halls.

The three-storeyed building has seating for 5,000 in its vaulted halls or in summer in its shaded beer-gardens.

For some the Hofbräuhaus is a second home, for Sepp Sollnberger, for instance, now 88, who has been to the Hofbräuhaus almost every day since 1918.

There are 50 tables reserved for the regulars, *Stammtische*, and woe betide the stranger who plonks himself down at one.

About 3.2 million guests quench their thirst in the Hofbräuhaus every year, about two million of them foreigners.

More than 100 waiters and waitresses, many of them multilingual, serve 30,000 people every day.

A Bavarian brass band plays to them as many as 20 times during the course of the evening the famous song, composed by a Berliner, which says that Munich *Gemütlichkeit*, cosiness, will never die so long as the Hofbräuhaus stands on the Platzl.

Four Bavarian folk dancers, slapping their thighs and legs, perform, along with a young lady yodeller, meeting the expectations of the company for something really Bavarian. Anyone expecting to see a fight doesn't usually leave disappointed.

Max Streibl, now Premier of Bavaria and once the state's Finance Minister, said such trials of strength were nothing to do with disagreements.

The lads were just getting to know one another, he explained.

As Finance Minister, Herr Streibl used to be the boss of the state-owned Hofbräuhaus.

He made these comments at a "Maibockprobe," a tasting of the new beer, which Finance Ministry civil servants traditionally take part in for a whole day long.

This original democracy in beer-drinking is still valid today, 400 years after the ducal command to broach the barrels, celebrating together, naturally with as many thirsty tourists as possible.

The Hofbräuhaus brewery brews 200,000 hectolitres of beer a year and sells it not only in house. It goes to 21 countries.

In the first week of June a fair will be put on in the neighbouring Hofbräuallee, including traditional handicrafts, a minting machine, giant beer tents and all kinds of traditional meals.

The Hofbräuhaus itself and the Hofbräu cellars, which will be left open, will have ready a 400-year celebration menu.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 10 May 1989)

No frills and no lace and no men, either

There are no frills, no lace, no scent of violets, and no men either. Germany's first hotel for women, the Artemisia, in Berlin, is designed to give women what the owners claim is denied them in other hotels.

All rooms have large mirrors, big enough to see without effort if the skirt is really sitting properly and if it goes with the blouse. The lights are designed to be dazzle-free so makeup can be applied without eye-strain; there are hairdryers in the bathrooms; and there are even tampons for emergency.

The four owners of the hotel, which opened this month, are women. One of them, Eva Veith, says: "We have nothing against a woman inviting a male business associate for a chat in the conference room, but men are not allowed in the rooms."

Architect Maria Kleber-Seeberger has chosen a mint green and pink colour scheme, bright and airy: "There is nothing worse for a woman than long, dark corridors — and dark oak fittings in the room."

Another of the owners, Manuela Polidori, 25: "Merely placing a few roses here or there doesn't do very much."

She has seen for herself how women travelling alone are allocated side tables in the dining room and given the worst rooms. "We've all had the experience of having to climb onto a stool to look in the bathroom mirror to see if the skirt goes with a blouse."

The four owners are just as concerned about their guests' intellectual stimulation as their beauty. Women artists working in Berlin have their paintings on display in the dining room.

Of course, the entire hotel staff comprises women. Even behind the bar.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 12 May 1989)

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made to build without a minaret at all. But this was known neither to the citizens' initiative nor the council. It would only have been submitted if the application had again been rejected.

Mayor Halbe: "If the council had not decided with a big majority in favour of the minaret, the harm would have been certainly greater. At the moment, the only harm I can see is that we have a few Republicans around." The dispute had been blown up from the beginning "because it has always been clear that there would be no muezzin making his call."

The affair has left its mark among the population. The leader of the SPD faction on the council, Bürger, who had said that "the talk should not always be about a united Europe; it should be put into practice right here," was thrown out of a restaurant opposite the mosque site. The restaurateur said: "He doesn't get anything here any more."

And at the tables of the hostelries in the area, the regulars ask: "What do they (the Turks) want here? They should just work and do their duty and leave us in [illegible] home, is it?"

One said: "This here is good ground for the Republicans." And the publican said: "You should have seen them in their Ramadan week (he meant the month of fasting)." What, exactly had happened? "Well, the lights burned the whole night long."

The mosque is on an arterial road directly before the exit from the town. It is not recognisable from the street as a mosque. The site gives an impression of prosperity. Inside the building there is a large room of about 140 square metres set aside for men to pray in. Right next to it is a room about 160 square metres, for women to say their prayers in. Both rooms are fitted out with hand-woven carpets.

The windows, which can't be looked in from the outside, are finished with ornamental glass.

Eser Halil Ibrahim, the head of the mosque organisation, confirms that Turks as well as the architect have been threatened.

He said: "We want to work together with the Germans here and to have them respect our beliefs. When the mosque is finished we Turks want to invite the people of Waldbröl to a celebration so they will be able to understand us better and so we'll be able to become friends."

When the 50,000 mark minaret is complete, perhaps people will take less notice of the 18-metre high chimney on a factory behind the mosque.

The architect in any case is optimistic that one day the people of the town will find the minaret more attractive than the chimney. At least it is better for the environment.

Udo Ulfkotte

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 May 1989)